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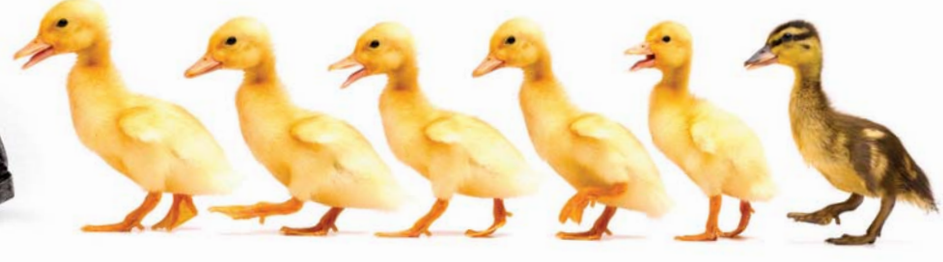


eo

eye openers

Presence of Dorothy, Tin Man, Scarecrow Also Odd

Deputies investigating a meth lab in Tennessee met with four aggressive monkeys. The officers smelled meth at the home of William Alan "Monkey Man" Givan on Friday. Inside the home they found methamphetamine cooking, as well as four monkeys, which Givan kept as pets. The monkeys were aggressive toward officers and ripped the jacket of one officer. **(AP)**

Conspiracy Theorists Scoff At Mere 2,000 Page Report

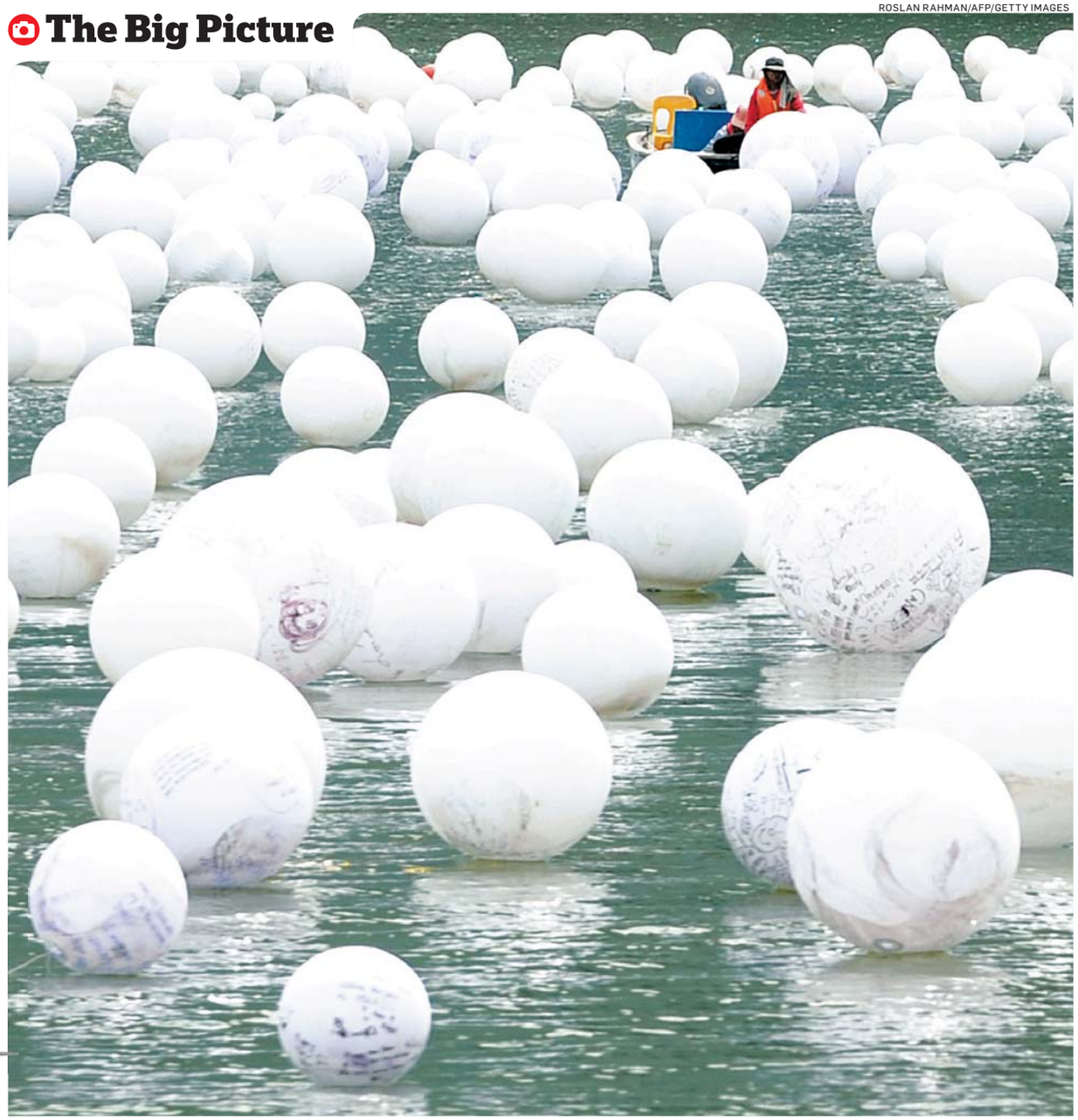
New Zealand's military has released a spate of reports on unidentified flying objects and other alien-related information that were previously classified. Most of the incidents contained in the approximately 2,000 pages of documents, involve lights in the sky, though there is mention of aliens in "pharoah masks."

Cinderella Is Distraught Over Missing Friend

Scientists have genetically engineered a mouse that tweets like a bird. The research team at the University of Osaka in Japan uses mice that have been genetically modified and are more prone to mutations than regular mice in hopes that the mutations that arise will help them learn about human evolution. They hope this mouse will shed light on human language. **(EXPRESS)**

The Big Picture

ROSLAN RAHMAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



WHITE LANTERN BALLS float in the Singapore River on Wednesday, inscribed with wishes for the new year as part of the region's holiday celebrations. **(EXPRESS)**

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Nation

In Brief

JUNEAU, ALASKA

State High Court Denies Miller's Election Appeal

The Alaska Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld a lower court decision in the disputed U.S. Senate race, saying the state correctly counted write-in votes for Sen. Lisa Murkowski. Republican Joe Miller appealed the decision to toss out his challenge to the state's counting of ballots for Murkowski, who led by more than 10,000 votes as a write-in candidate. (AP)

Miller

SANTA ANA, CALIF.

51 Years Given for Deaths In Drunken Driving Case

A construction worker who was on probation for felony drunken driving when he ran a red light in 2009 and killed rookie Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart and two others was sentenced Wednesday to 51 years to life in prison. A judge sentenced Andrew Gallo, 24, amid sobbing from the victims' family and friends who heard him apologize. (AP)

WASHINGTON

EPA: Tougher Standards Likely for Tap Water

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency says it will likely tighten drinking water standards to address potential health risks of a carcinogen recently found in the tap water of 31 cities across the U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson issued a statement Wednesday saying she is concerned about the prevalence of the chemical hexavalent chromium. (AP)

Holiday Schedule

Express will not publish on Friday. Regular publishing will resume on Monday.

Scramble to Reassure the Public

White House seeks to ease worries after intel chief's blunder

Washington

As the White House sought to reassure Americans that it has fixed mistakes that nearly allowed al-Qaeda to take down a U.S.-bound airliner last Christmas, it acknowledged Wednesday another security misstep: The nation's top intelligence official was out of the loop about a terrorist plot and numerous arrests this week in Britain.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper appeared stumped Tuesday night when asked on ABC News whether a significant terror plot uncovered in London could have security implications in the United States.

"London?" Clapper asked, looking at Obama's homeland security adviser, John Brennan, who was also being interviewed.

On Wednesday, Brennan sought to allay fears about a holiday season terrorist attack.

"We are in much better position today than we were last year at this time," Brennan said.

Asked why Clapper was out of the loop on such a major incident, he said the director was preoccupied with North and South Korea and a tentative nuclear weapons treaty with Russia.

"Should he have been briefed by his staff on those arrests?" Brennan said. "Yes."

It was an embarrassing moment not just for Obama but for the embattled position of director of national intelligence. The job, created after the Sept. 11 attacks, has failed to live up to its billing as a strong overseer of the nation's intelligence infrastructure.

The past year has been the most challenging yet for Obama on the terrorism front. The administration has faced an attempted car bombing in Times Square, a nearly successful attack on U.S.-bound cargo planes and several nascent plots disrupted by the FBI.

Security officials have been on edge for days because of an increase in intelligence "chatter" about a possible attack. Officials have said there is no credible threat. (AP)

Backstory ...

James Clapper was confirmed as director of national intelligence on Aug. 5. Before his confirmation, one criticism of Clapper was that he would not have the clout to lead the nation's intelligence network. With John Brennan, an ex-CIA official turned homeland security adviser, in the White House, and Leon Panetta running the CIA, some feared Clapper, 69, would be marginalized. (AP)

Deadly Blaze Leaves Chicago Firefighters Mourning

AP

A FIREFIGHTER IS RUSHED to treatment on Wednesday in Chicago. An abandoned building on the city's South Side caught fire early Wednesday, and two firefighters were killed and at least 17 injured when its roof and one wall collapsed. The city's fire commissioner, Robert Hoff, said every firefighter there "did the best they could to save their brothers." (AP)

Judge Sets Bail For 'Pedophile's Guide' Author

Bartow, Fla.

A judge set bail at $15,000 Wednesday for a Colorado man who wrote a how-to guide for pedophiles.

Phillip Greaves is charged with violating the Florida's obscenity law, a third-degree felony that could net five years in prison.

Phillip Greaves, 47, who has no criminal record, sold his guide for pedophiles on Amazon.com, but it was pulled in November.

He was arrested Monday in Colorado. Polk County, Fla., Sheriff Grady Judd claims jurisdiction in the case because Greaves sold and mailed a copy of his book, "The Pedophile's Guide to Love and Pleasure: a Child-lover's Code of Conduct" to undercover deputies in Florida who had requested it.

TAMARA LUSH (AP)

200M **The estimated number of e-mails** in former President George W. Bush's electronic archives, which is 10 times more than the Clinton administration's approximately 20 million e-mails. Archivists responsible for putting together Bush's presidential library are processing the 80 terabytes of electronic information. (AP)

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Nation

Super Soaker Out West

Landslides remain a threat after massive storm pounds Calif.

Laguna Beach, Calif.

A powerful storm dumped more rain on already waterlogged Southern California on Wednesday, washing hillsides onto highways, endangering houses and forcing rescuers to pluck dozens of motorists from flooded streets.

The storm was expected to ease as it moved eastward. The low-pressure system could be in New Mexico by Thursday and could reach the Gulf Coast by Saturday with some rain, but not the deluge that hit Southern California, forecasters said.

In Southern California, heavy rains in the morning left streets flooded and caused minor mudslides. The threat, however, of larger mudslides could last for weeks in the suburban Los Angeles canyon hillsides laid bare by wildfires.

"The ground is so saturated, it could move at any time," said Bob Spencer, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

AP

A woman in Beaver Dam, Ariz., fills sandbags on Wednesday to help protect homes.

Heavy rains early Wednesday caused a hillside to collapse on part of a busy Interstate 10 transition road about 30 miles outside Los Angeles.

In the towns of Laguna Beach and adjoining Laguna Woods, rescuers plucked more than 30 drivers, pedestrians and people stuck in their homes as mud and stormwater poured down steep hillsides.

"There's mud and rocks and hillside collapses," Laguna Beach police Lt. Jason Kravetz said. "It was too much [rain], too quick."

About a square mile of Laguna Beach, including downtown, was closed as up to 4 feet of water rolled from Laguna Creek. The water later receded but left a mushy carpet of mud.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in six counties.

Flood warnings, emergency declarations and evacuation orders were in place in parts of Utah, Nevada and Arizona. (AP)

Potential Suit in Rutgers Suicide

New Brunswick, N.J.

The parents of a Rutgers University student who killed himself after his roommate allegedly used a webcam to spy on him during a tryst with another man have filed notice that they intend to sue the school.

Joseph and Jane Clementi, parents of Tyler Clementi, filed the notice on Friday preserving their right to sue. They have to wait six months to file the lawsuit over their son's death, which became a symbol in a national outcry over the bullying of young gays.

Lawyers for the Clementi family did not immediately return calls from The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Backstory

Tyler Clementi, 18, killed himself on Sept. 22, days after a roommate and another fellow Rutgers student allegedly used a webcam to peek at Clementi's liaison with another man. His death came amid a string of high-profile suicides of young people who were gay or perceived to be gay. (AP)

The suspects in the case, Dharun Ravi and fellow freshman Molly Wei, were both charged with invasion of privacy and have withdrawn from Rutgers.

Authorities say they're weighing whether to charge the two with bias intimidation. (AP)

Investigations

THE CIA HAS NOW LAUNCHED a task force to assess the impact of the files exposed by Julian Assange's WikiLeaks. Officially, the panel is called the WikiLeaks Task Force. But at the CIA, it's mainly known by its all-too-apt acronym: W.T.F., irreverence that is perhaps understandable for an agency that has been relatively unscathed by WikiLeaks. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

World

Iraqi Churches Cancel Christmas

Christians downplay festivities as threat of insurgent attacks rise

Kirkuk, Iraq

Iraqi Christians on Wednesday called off Christmas festivities across the country as al-Qaeda insurgents threatened more attacks on a beleaguered community still terrified from a bloody siege at a Baghdad church two months earlier.

A council representing Christian denominations across Iraq advised its followers to cancel public Christmas celebrations out of concern over new terror attacks and as a show of mourning for the victims of the church siege and other violence.

Church officials in the northern cities of Kirkuk and Mosul, the southern city of Basra and in the capital confirmed they will not put up Christmas decorations or hold evening Mass and have urged worshippers to refrain from decorating their homes. Even an appearance by Santa Claus was called off.

"Nobody can ignore the threats of al-Qaeda against Iraqi Christians," said Chaldean Archbishop Louis Sako in Kirkuk. "We cannot find a single source of joy that makes us celebrate."

The Islamic State of Iraq renewed its threats in a message posted late Tuesday on a website frequented by Islamic extremists. The group said it wants the release of two women it claims are being held captive by Egypt's Coptic Church.

Few reliable statistics exist on the number of Christians in this nation of 29 million. A recent State Department report says Christian leaders estimate 400,000 to 600,000 remain, down from a prewar level as high as 1.4 million. SAMEER N. YACOUB AND YAHYA BARZANJI (AP)

HADI MIZBAN/AP

People walk past Christmas decorations for sale in Baghdad on Wednesday.

Living in Fear

Christians across Iraq have been living in fear since a Baghdad church attack in October that left 68 people dead. Days later insurgents targeted Christian homes and neighborhoods across the capital with a series of bombs. An al-Qaeda front group that claimed responsibility for the church siege vowed at the time to carry out a reign of terror against Christians. (AP)

In Brief

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Argentine Ex-Ruler Gets Life in Prison Sentence

Former dictator Jorge Videla was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday for the torture and murder of 31 prisoners in 1976. It was the first conviction for the military junta leader in 25 years of democracy. Videla, who led the military coup that installed Argentina's 1976-1983 dictatorship, is considered the architect of a dirty war that eliminated thousands of people in a crackdown on armed leftist guerrillas and their supporters. (AP)

Videla

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

S. Korea Holds Massive New Drills After Attack

South Korea vowed Wednesday to "completely punish" North Korea if it attacks again, and mobilized hundreds of troops, tanks and helicopters for a massive military exercise prompted by high tensions on the peninsula. The firing drills are planned for Thursday. (AP)

ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST

Opposition P.M. Wants Gbagbo Gone by Force

A top opposition figure called Wednesday for the international community to use force to oust Laurent Gbagbo from the presidency after the disputed election, as France urged its citizens to get out amid growing fears of civil war. The United Nations and other world leaders recognize Alassane Ouattara as the winner of the Nov. 28 runoff vote. His prime minister, Guillaume Soro, urged the U.N., European Union, African Union and others to consider intervening to push Gbagbo out. (AP)

Giant Animatronic Cranes Mimic Counterparts

ROSLAN RAHMAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

TWO 98-FEET-TALL ANIMATRONIC CRANES perform the "Crane Dance" Wednesday during a preview at Resort World Sentosa in Singapore. The waterfront show, which opens Saturday, is touted as being the world's tallest dancing animatronics show and features LED displays, digital art and pyrotechnics.

Drugs for Afghan Army Disappear

Kabul, Afghanistan

U.S.-donated medicines and pharmaceutical supplies meant to keep the new Afghan army and police healthy have been disappearing before reaching Afghan military hospitals and clinics, and the government said it is removing the army's top medical officer from his post as part of an investigation into alleged corruption.

Afghan Defense Minister Gen. Abdul Rahim Wardak told The Associated Press that Surgeon General Ahmad Zia Yaftali was being removed from his post as part of the inquiry. Three officials from the country's top medical facility, Dawood National Military Hospital in Kabul, have been fired, he said.

It's unclear just how much has gone missing of the $42 million worth of medical goods the U.S. has donated this year, and whether any Afghan soldiers have died as a result. U.S. officials say they do not account for the supplies after delivering them to the Afghans.

The Americans have repeatedly urged Afghan President Hamid Karzai to root out government corruption to show that his administration can be a true partner in re-establishing control over the country. (AP)

On Cloud Nine: Sony Corp. on Wednesday launched a music streaming service in a bid to boost sales of its consumer electronics and break Apple's dominance of the online music business. The Japanese company's "Music Unlimited powered by Qriocity" is based on cloud technology that gives users access to a catalog of about 6 million songs, which can be streamed across Sony's Internet-connected devices. (AP)

Free, for an unlimited time only.

World

China's Nip-Tuck Fever

Plastic surgery craze soars in a country with little regulation

Shanghai

Wang Baobao got her first taste of plastic surgery when she was just 16.

A nip and a tuck led to another nip and another tuck, another after that, and another, and another. There were the follow-up surgeries, and the repairs for the procedures that were botched the first time, and the second time, and then the third time.

Wang, now 28, estimates she has had between 170 to 180 different operations, usually six or seven at a time, and on "nearly every part of my body." She had her eyes widened. She had her nose and jaw made narrower, and her chin shaped smaller. Her breasts were enhanced, but "I had to keep having operations to repair them."

KEITH B. RICHBURG/THE WASHINGTON POST

Wang Baobao estimates she has had up to 180 plastic surgeries since turning 16.

Wang, while extreme, is in many ways emblematic of China's new and growing obsession with plastic surgery. Many now feel the craze has gone badly awry, as more and more unlicensed, unskilled and unscrupulous practitioners jump into an increasingly lucrative, yet largely unregulated, industry.

Li Qingfeng, a plastic surgeon who is also deputy secretary of the Chinese Association of Plastics and Aesthetics, said his hospital alone receives about 100,000 patients each year. "Most of the people don't have surgery at officially regulated hospitals," with many patients going to beauty salons or other unregulated facilities — "and the number is huge," Li said.

While government-run hospitals adhere to stricter standards with more experienced doctors, the same can't be said of these "black hospitals" and other private facilities, several experts said. **KEITH B. RICHBURG (THE WASHINGTON POST)**

3M

The number of people in China who underwent plastic surgery last year, according to an official estimate. China ranks third in the world behind the U.S. and Brazil for the number of surgeries performed. (AP)

Spain's 'Fat One' Gives Away Millions

MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

PEOPLE CELEBRATE AFTER WINNING a portion of Spain's Christmas lottery Wednesday in Palleja, Spain. The beloved Christmas lottery, known as "El Gordo" (The Fat One), has no single jackpot but operates a complex share-the-wealth system in which thousands of five-digit numbers win at least something.

Science Journal Publishes Study By 8-Year-Olds

London

It came with wobbly writing and hand-drawn diagrams, but an elementary school science project has made it into a peer-reviewed journal from Britain's prestigious Royal Society.

Biology Letters published a report Wednesday conducted and written by a group of 8- to 10-year-olds from an English elementary school investigating the way bumblebees see colors and patterns. The scientific organization said the children reported findings that were a "genuine advance" in the field of insect color and pattern vision.

Working with a neuroscientist from University College London, the children carefully documented their methodology. **(AP)**

DC Rider

FREE IPHONE APP AVAILABLE NOW AT THE ITUNES STORE

GERALD MARTINEAU/FTWP

Metro Transit bomb technician Anthony Montgomery performs a digital X-ray of a handbag at Braddock Road on Tuesday.

The Search Is On

Q Are they doing this simply because they have money to burn? I have lived in Israel, where imminent terrorist threats routinely require all bags to be searched. It makes no sense to harass a small group of passengers.

Given that setting up police checkpoints at public transit stations is clearly going to be intimidating to thousands of people who are just trying to get to work, Metro's statements about why this is necessary have been rather blithe. I take them at their word when they say they are not doing it in response to any specific threat against the Metro system.

Q I am unclear on whether the searches will apply to Metrobus too? If so, the holes in the policy seem even larger in that the stops are so close together. What is to prevent someone from refusing a search and then walking a few blocks to the next stop?

Dr. Gridlock offers commuter counseling online at washingtonpost.com

Yes, officers can stop you for an inspection before you board a Metrobus. That is tougher to picture than the train station inspections that began this morning. Metro says that you'll go through the inspections before you pay your fare.

Q We're talking about the mass transit system serving the nation's capital, at a time when the U.S. is in violent conflict with terrorists who attack subways and buses just like Metro's. Isn't it possible that these random checks serve a valuable deterrent effect? Isn't it possible that by making it that much harder to plan a bombing of Metro, they flush potential attackers out as they try to develop new means of attack?

Yes, all those things are possible. How far do you think we should go in this direction? I think you could make the case that it's even more possible to stop terrorist attacks on Metro if all riders were lined up at the station entrances and put through body scans while their bags are opened and they produce identification.

METRO PULSE

What's the worst present you've ever gotten for the holidays?

They've all been good presents, but my grandma once hand-crocheted an Afghan that was blue, orange, olive green and purple. I think it was all the tail ends of balls of yarn for other projects she was working on.

Michelle Hanson, ROCKVILLE

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Local

Deal Cut to Keep Preakness in Md.

Vote will keep event at Pimlico and allow for 146 racing days

Laurel, Md.

The Maryland Racing Commission approved an agreement to allow 146 racing days and keep the Preakness Stakes in Baltimore.

The commission voted Wednesday to support an agreement reached by horse racing representatives and Gov. Martin O'Malley's administration earlier in the day in Annapolis.

"Today's agreement not only keeps Maryland's treasured Preakness Stakes where it belongs, but it helps protect the thousands of jobs that depend on our rich history of horse racing," O'Malley said in a statement after the meeting.

A key part of the agreement calls for redirecting between $3.5 million and $4 million in state slot machine money set aside for capital improvements at racetracks to help pay costs to operate the tracks instead.

Alan Foreman, a lawyer for the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, said the deal solves short-term problems to save jobs while creating breathing room to work on long-term solutions for the troubled industry. (AP)

Backstory

The vote to keep the Preakness at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course came a day after the commission voted against a racing proposal, casting a cloud over the future of Maryland's racing industry. The Triple Crown's second leg has been run at the track since 1873, but the track owners have said they cannot profit from live racing on days that don't have the crowds drawn by the Preakness. Nearly $80 million was bet on the race this year, and more than 95,000 attended. (AP)

Severe Blaze Engulfs D.C. School

MATT MCCLAIN/FTWP

A FIREFIGHTER battles a three-alarm blaze on Wednesday at the Takoma Education Center in Northwest D.C. Only a few staff members were inside at the time because the school had already let pout for the holidays. No one was injured, Plans are being made to move the school children to vacant school facilities once they return from the break until repairs are finished.

Gray Unveils Choices to Run D.C. School System

Washington

D.C. Mayor-elect Vincent Gray went outside Washington for two key education positions.

Gray on Wednesday named Hosanna Mahaley as state superintendent of education. Mahaley previously worked for Chicago and Atlanta public schools. Gray also named De'Shawn Wright as deputy mayor for education. Wright has been a senior adviser to Newark Mayor Corey A. Booker.

Gray says he will not name a permanent schools chancellor until after a search as required by the school reform law. (AP)

Women: Is Your Drinking Causing Problems?

Do You Drink Alcohol to Help Ease Your Anxiety?

If you are a woman ages 21 to 65 who has tried to stop drinking, or decrease the amount of drinking, but can't, you may be eligible for a research study testing the effectiveness of a new drug for women with alcohol and anxiety problems. This is a five-week inpatient research study at the Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.
There is a chance of receiving placebo (an inactive sugar pill).

There is no cost to participate and participants will be compensated.

Call: 301-496-1993
TTY: 1-866-411-1010
www.clinicaltrials.gov

Study #: 10-AA-0046

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NIAAA
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

The Lotteries

Wednesday, Dec. 22

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	4-2-0
Evening Lucky Numbers (Tues.)	0-2-3
Mid-day DC 4	4-5-7-3
Evening DC 4 (Tues.)	1-8-8-8
Mid-day D.C. Five	7-0-9-8-2
Evening D.C. Five (Tues.)	0-3-6-4-7

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3	2-1-2
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	0-2-5
Mid-day Pick 4	3-6-8-4
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	9-0-6-0
Match 5 (Tues.)	03-06-09-11-12 (39)

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3	6-8-2
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	1-0-8
Mid-day Pick 4	2-6-5-6
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	4-0-3-8
Mid-day Cash 5	12-19-20-24-28
Evening Cash 5 (Tues.)	14-18-20-23-24

Multi-State Games

Mega Millions (Tues.)	08-11-12-31-32
Mega Ball	29

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Fenty Transfers D.C. Job Funds To Pay His Staff

Washington

Mayor Adrian Fenty has redirected $495,000 from a job training program to cover severance pay for his political appointees, drawing protests from at least two D.C. Council members.

In a letter Tuesday, Council members Michael Brown and Kwame Brown asked Fenty to reconsider. The council members wrote that the money transfer "typifies the lack of commitment to workforce development that you have demonstrated over your entire term in office." (AP)

Not So Lame

When the lame-duck session of Congress started more than a month ago, President Obama looked defeated and deflated, acknowledging the "shellacking" his party had taken in the midterm elections. Now, that six-week legislative session is a surprising success, featuring the enactment of arguably the most major liberal policies since the Johnson administration. "We are not doomed to endless gridlock," Obama said Wednesday, the day he signed the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell." (THE WASHINGTON POST/AP)

EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Obama on Wednesday signs into law the historic repeal of the military's ban on openly gay service members.

PASSED

9/11 Responders

After a last-minute deal, Congress passed legislation Wednesday to provide up to $4.2 billion in new aid to survivors of the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center and responders who became ill working in its ruins. The package provides $1.5 billion to monitor the health of rescue and cleanup workers and treat illnesses related to the site. It also reopens a victims' compensation fund with $2.7 billion.

PASSED

Child Nutrition

A $4.5 billion child nutrition bill, passed by Congress and promoted by first lady Michelle Obama, aims to improve school lunches and expand feeding programs for low-income students. It gives the government power to decide what kinds of foods may be sold in schools. The initiative will be paid for with money taken out of the food stamp program, a move to placate some Republicans.

PASSED

Food Safety

The House on Dec. 21 passed a sweeping bill aimed at making food safer after recent contaminations in peanuts, eggs and produce. The law will give the government broad new powers to inspect processing plants, order recalls and impose stricter standards for imported foods. It will require larger farms and food manufacturers to prepare detailed food safety plans to the Food and Drug Administration.

RATIFIED

Nuclear Arms

The Senate on Wednesday ratified an arms control treaty with Russia that reins in the nuclear weapons that could plunge the world into doomsday, giving President Obama a major foreign policy win in Congress' waning hours. Thirteen Republicans broke with their top two leaders and joined 56 Democrats and two independents in providing the necessary two-thirds vote to approve the treaty.

PASSED

'Don't Ask'

In a landmark for gay rights, the Senate on Dec. 18 voted to let gays serve openly in the military, effectively repealing the 17-year-old policy known as "don't ask, don't tell." Obama was to sign the bill into law Wednesday, although the change wouldn't take immediate effect. The legislation says the president and his top military advisers must certify that lifting the ban won't hurt troops' fighting ability.

PASSED

Jobless Benefits

Unemployment benefits will be restored for millions of Americans under the tax-cut measure President Obama signed into law. In the 24 states with unemployment rates of at least 8.5 percent, the unemployed can receive benefits for up to 99 weeks. In other states, they get less — in some cases as few as 60 weeks, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. The new law restores, for 13 more months, the 99-week maximum.

PASSED

Loud TV Ads

The House on Dec. 2 passed legislation to block advertisers from abruptly raising the volume of TV commercials to get the attention of viewers during breaks — something the Federal Communications Commission has been receiving complaints about since the 1960s. The measure forces the broadcasting industry to abide by audio standards set a year ago by the non-profit Advanced Television Systems Committee.

PASSED

Medicare Pay

Congress approved and President Obama signed a measure to avoid a steep cut in Medicare pay for doctors. The $19 billion to pay doctors at current rates for another year — preventing a 25 percent cut due Jan. 1 — will come mostly from tightening the rules on tax credits in the health care law. The cuts are the result of a 1990s budget-balancing law that tried, but failed, to keep Medicare spending in line through automatic reductions.

PASSED

Stopgap Funding

Congress passed a bill Dec. 21 to keep the government open into March, when Republicans will have greater power to cut federal spending. The bill freezes agency budgets at current levels. The measure was needed because the Democratic-controlled Congress — in an unprecedented breakdown of the budget process — failed to pass a single one of the 12 annual spending bills that fund the day-to-day operations of every federal agency.

PASSED

Tax Cuts

The House passed a sweeping tax package that will spare millions of Americans from tax hikes set to take effect in the new year. The measure, which cleared the Senate the day before and was later signed by President Obama, also reduces Social Security taxes and extends jobless benefits. Obama negotiated the package with Senate Republicans and then worked for days trying to persuade Democrats to support it.

Failed | Immigration DREAM Act: Senate Republicans on Dec. 18 doomed an effort to give hundreds of thousands of young illegal immigrants a path to legal status if they enrolled in college or joined the military. The "Dream Act" fell five votes short of the 60 needed to win its enactment before Republicans take over the House.

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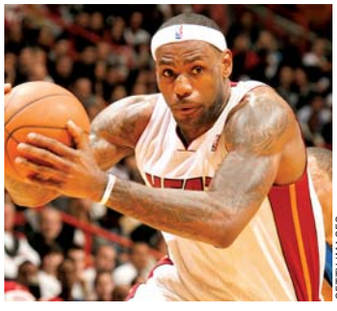
sports

Grossman's promotion raises some long-term problems for Redskins | 12

TV Lineup



GETTY IMAGES

LeBron James leads the Heat against Kobe Bryant's Lakers on Christmas Day.

Thursday

7 P.M. The Caps carry a two-game winning streak into their game against the Pittsburgh Penguins. CSN
8 P.M. Navy battles San Diego State in the Poinsettia Bowl. ESPN
8 P.M. Georgetown's basketball team seeks a win over a top 25 foe when visiting Memphis. ESPN2

Friday

8 P.M. Nothing says Christmas Eve quite like watching Tulsa face Hawaii n the Hawaii Bowl. ESPN

Saturday

NOON A whole day of NBA action tips off with the New York Knicks hosting the Chicago Bulls. ESPN
2:30 P.M. See Gilbert Arenas with his new team when the Orlando Magic play the Boston Celtics. ABC
5 P.M. Some guys named Kobe and LeBron meet when the Miami heat visit the Los Angeles Lakers. ABC
8 P.M. Kevin Durant leads the Oklahoma City Thunder against Carmelo Anthony and the Denver Nuggets. ESPN

Sunday

1 P.M. The Redskins can spoil the Jaguars' playoff hopes. Fox
4:15 P.M. The New York Giants hope their game against the Green Bay Packers doesn't come down to a punt. Fox
7:30 P.M. The Capitals visit the Ottawa Senators. CSN

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

THE KID VS. THE GREAT

Alex Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby's rivalry boils down to a collection of trophy races and head-to-head battles. On Thursday, the NHL's top two stars play for the first time this season — a week before going head to head in the Winter Classic. Here's a look at how the rivalry has played out so far. REED S. ALBERS

The Rookie of the Year Race

When Ovechkin and Crosby arrived in the NHL, the two were immediately picked as favorites to compete for the league's rookie of the year honor, the Calder Memorial Trophy. Both lived up to the hype.

7 P.M.
Thu. | CSN

Crosby, 19, became the youngest player in NHL history reach 100 points, leading all rookies in assists (63) and finished second among for goals (39) and points (102).

In the first half of the season, Crosby appeared to be the clear favorite to win the Calder, but after Ovechkin's practically upside-down goal against Phoenix, the Russian stole the spotlight and eventually took home the trophy.

Ovechkin lead all rookies in points (106) and goals (52). His 425 shots led the NHL that season, and he placed third in the league for goals and points.

Trading Trophies

Throughout the Ovechkin-Crosby rivalry, the two players have gone back-and-forth in winning awards.

After Ovechkin's Calder-winning season, Crosby won the Hart Memorial Trophy — the league's most valuable player — in the 2006-2007 season. That year, Crosby amassed a career-high 36 goals, 84 assists and 120 points.

The following year Ovechkin won the Hart Trophy with 65 goals, 47 assists and 112 points. He repeated as MVP in 2008-2009 after scoring 56 goals, 54 assists and 110 points.

Ovechkin also won the Maurice "Rocket" Richard trophy for goal scoring in both MVP seasons. Crosby (51 goals) won his first "Rocket" trophy last year — sharing the honor with Tampa Bay's Steven Stamkos, topping Ovechkin for the award by one goal.

Ovechkin and Crosby were nominated for the Hart last year, but lost to Vancouver's Henrik Sedin.

The 'Fight'

It's rare that Ovechkin and Crosby's lines will be paired up against each other during a game, but on Feb. 22, 2009, the two had an infamous near-fight that elevated the rivalry.

> **"What I can say about him? He is a good player, but he talks too much."**
>
> — ALEX OVECHKIN'S TAKE ON SIDNEY CROSBY

While Washington was leading Pittsburgh 5-2 at home, the two stars had a brief altercation near the benches.

Ovechkin and Crosby crossed paths, shared a few words and began a shoving match. Ovechkin then grabbed Crosby's head, whispered in his ear and mocked the frustrated Pens captain by playfully waving goodbye.

The Playoff Series

Already regarded as one of the league's best playoff series since the lockout, the 2008-2009 Eastern Conference Semifinals series between the Caps and Pens helped intensify the Ovechkin-Crosby rivalry.

In Game 2 of the series, both players recorded hat tricks, but Washington walked away a 4-3 winner. Washington then blew a 2-0 series lead, but was able to force a Game 7 after David Steckel scored overtime goal in Game 6.

Game 7 was supposed to be an epic face-off between Ovechkin and Crosby, but ended up being a marquee mismatch. Pittsburgh won 6-2 behind two goals and an assist from Crosby.

Following the Capitals series the Penguins swept the Carolina Hurricanes in the Eastern Conference Final and then defeated the Detroit Red Wings in seven games for the Stanley Cup.

sports

Is Grossman Really the Answer?

The Redskins

It looks like Mike Shanahan was right. But where the Redskins go from here is less clear than ever.

Shanahan's first year molding the team took a drastic turn last weekend when he made Rex Grossman the starter and saw the offense hit its stride in the second half in a 33-30 loss to Dallas.

Grossman, who has more experience in offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan's system than the benched Donovan McNabb, looked comfortable under center. He threw four touchdowns — the most of any Washington player in a single game since 2005.

RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Rex Grossman, center, impressed his teammates in leading Sunday's rally in Dallas.

The effort seemed to surprise everyone except the Shanahans. Mike Shanahan has alluded to Grossman's understanding of Washington's offense, and those words were backed up on the field. Grossman threw two picks, but with the Redskins trailing, there was little question that Washington was going to keep throwing.

"I thought we did some good things," Shanahan said. "Rex is very familiar with the terminology which gives him the ability to throw things out there quicker than most quarterbacks would."

Shanahan said Grossman will continue to start at quarterback when the team travels to Jacksonville (8-6) Sunday. John Beck will be in the No. 2 role and McNabb will play the role of the emergency quarterback.

While the question of whether or not Grossman can serve as at least an adequate placeholder is answered, larger questions remain. Is Grossman really the way forward next season? Which players will be around next season?

"I haven't been able to evaluate the younger guys, and that's why a lot of younger guys are playing right now," Shanahan said. "You just never know when you first come in where you're headed."

ERIC BRANDNER

JESSICA HILL/AP

Connecticut'sTina Charles, left, hugs teammate Tiffany Hayes on Thursday.

Connecticut Makes Its Mark With New Record

Women's College Hoops

Let everyone else debate their place in history — coach Geno Auriemma and the UConn Huskies don't mind. They just want to do the best they can, night in and night out. Their best is pretty darn good: 89 straight wins and counting.

"All I've ever wanted is for these kids to be appreciated for what they do and how they do it, not to be compared to how Bill Walton and Jamaal Wilkes did it," Auriemma said.

The No. 1 Huskies topped the 88-game winning streak set by John Wooden's UCLA men's team from 1971-74, beating No. 22 Florida State 93-62 on Tuesday night. Playing with the relentlessness that has become its trademark — and would have made Wooden proud — UConn blew past the Seminoles as it has so many other teams in the last 2½ years.

Maya Moore had a career-high 41 points and 10 rebounds for the Huskies, who have not lost since April 6, 2008, in the Final Four.

"I don't want my team to compare themselves to anyone," Auriemma said. "I'm not John Wooden and this isn't UCLA. This is Connecticut and that's good enough." (AP)

Ryan Sidesteps Questions Over 'Foot Fetish'

Pro Football

New York Jets coach Rex Ryan says it's a "personal matter" and declined to talk about a "foot fetish" report posted by the sports website Deadspin that show four videos of a woman who bears an uncanny resemblance to Ryan's wife, Michelle.

The videos show a woman displaying her toes to an off-screen cameraman who sounds a lot like the coach. The two are having an intimate chat about her feet.

Asked about it during a conference call Wednesday, Ryan said he is "not really going to discuss it."

This isn't the first time the Jets have turned up on Deadspin this season. In October, the site reported that Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre sent racy text messages and photos to a former game hostess while he was the Jets' quarterback in 2008. (AP)

Sunday Pick'Em

	Matt Swenson, SPORTS EDITOR, EXPRESS	Clinton Yates, SPORTS EDITOR, EXPRESS	John Domen, NEWS ANCHOR, 106.7 THE FAN	Big Tigger, MORNING SHOW HOST, 95.5 WPGG-FM
REDSKINS (PLUS 7) AT JAGUARS	**JAGUARS** There's no sense picking the Redskins for the rest of the season.	**JAGUARS** Though it wouldn't surprise me if the most of the offense is happy Rex is playing.	**JAGUARS** Just like last year, the Redskins are playing out the string.	**REDSKINS** Redskins play spoiler.
JETS (PLUS 1) AT BEARS	**BEARS** I dare any team to beat Chicago at home this time of year.	**BEARS** Two tough weather-heavy road games in a row will take its toll on the Jets.	**BEARS** These are two teams that wish their defenses could stay on the field the whole game.	**BEARS** Going with the home team.
49ERS (PLUS 2) AT RAMS	**RAMS** Mike Shanahan wishes he had Sam Bradford instead of Donovan McNabb.	**49ERS** More than anything else, I want so bad for a sub-.500 team to win the NFC West.	**RAMS** Both teams hoping an invite to the future Pac-12 is in the offing.	**RAMS** These teams both stink. Flip a coin and guess Rams.
COLTS (MINUS 3) AT RAIDERS	**COLTS** Colts aren't going to blow their shot at another division title against Oakland.	**COLTS** Next year will be the year the Raiders really make a run.	**COLTS** Peyton Manning hands out TD passes like they're presents from Santa in this one.	**COLTS** The Colts have to win out and they will.
SAINTS (PLUS 3) AT FALCONS	**FALCONS** Atlanta is playing for home field in the playoffs — that's a great incentive.	**SAINTS** I have the feeling the defending champs are tired of hearing about the Falcons at home.	**SAINTS** But the Falcons win any playoff rematch.	**FALCONS** The Falcons don't lose at home — period.

Season Tally: Clinton Yates, 39-31; Big Tigger, 33-22; John Domen, 34-26; Matt Swenson 32-23; Dan Steinberg, 31-24; Arnie Applebaum, 30-25

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A full public notice for the position is posted in the Eastern District of Virginia at the Office of the Clerk of the District Court and Office of the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court and in all divisional offices in the Eastern District of Virginia and may also be viewed at **http://www.uscourts.gov/uscjobvac/**

The Court of Appeals is an equal opportunity employer. Lawyers interested in applying should notify:
Samuel W. Phillips, Circuit Executive, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit by emailing ce04_vacancy@ca4.uscourts.gov and the qualification standards and an application form will be forwarded to you.
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CHRIS MORRIS

on the spot

ADAM SANDLER ISN'T the only Jewish person who grew up wondering why there were no good Hanukkah songs. The ironically named Rob Tannenbaum wondered the same thing. So, the New York-based entertainment writer and contributing Playboy editor formed the musical comedy duo Good for the Jews to perform such ditties as "Good to be a Jew at Christmas" and "Goin' Down to Boca." Tannenbaum spoke with Express about Friday's Christmas Eve gig.

Is there a serious aspect to Good for the Jews?

December can be a very difficult month to be Jewish, because everywhere you go, people say "Merry Christmas" as though everyone celebrates Christmas. There's just something about the forced jolliness of Christmas music that always makes me depressed.

So, you started Good for the Jews to fill a void?

One of the reasons I started doing this was because I had nothing to do on Christmas Eve. If you're Jewish, Christmas Eve is the most boring night of the year.

When did you start performing as a duo?

The show started in New York at a club called the Knitting Factory. We had to persuade them to stay open Christmas Eve. They were, like, "Who is gonna come see a show on Christmas Eve?" And it sold out. The next year we did two shows on Christmas Eve.

COURTESY GOOD FOR THE JEWS

Rob Tannenbaum

(LEFT) SINGER/SONGWRITER, GOOD FOR THE JEWS

"There's just something about the forced jolliness of Christmas music that always makes me depressed."

What audience do you attract?

At any given show, the non-Jewish composition of the crowd is anywhere from 20 to 40 percent, which I think is a testament to how thoroughly assimilated Jewish comedy is. If you like Jon Stewart and if you like Jerry Seinfeld, then you appreciate a Jewish sensibility. Everybody eats bagels now. I think even KKK guys in Idaho know a little bit of Yiddish. **TONY SCLAFANI**

● *Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna, Va.; Fri., 7 p.m., $20; 703-255-1566.*

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XX173bC 5x6

Round House's New 'Wrinkle'

The Bethesda troupe adapts a much-loved children's sci-fi classic

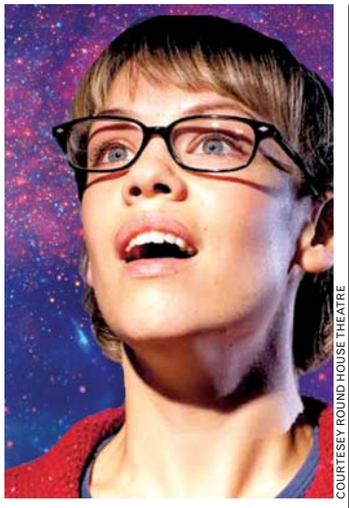
Theater

Nearly four decades before J.K. Rowling introduced readers to Harry Potter and took them through seven books about his quest to avenge his parents' deaths, Madeleine L'Engle was writing about the power of love in "A Wrinkle in Time," the first book in her Kairos series.

It's that message that director Casey Sams has ensured remains in the theatrical adaptation of "A Wrinkle in Time" at the Round House Theatre. The Bethesda company's production — the first time Glove's adaptation has been staged on the East Coast — will run through Dec. 26.

But while Sams has loved the book since childhood for its main character, the self-conscious, glasses-wearing Meg Murray, she was fully aware of the challenges associated with putting on the play.

The novel — with its time travel, foreign planets, space aliens and an evil brain named "IT" — requires lots of imaginative production techniques to mimic L'Engle's sci-fi elements without becoming too campy, Sams said.



COURTESEY ROUND HOUSE THEATRE

Erin Weaver stars as Meg, the brainy lead character in "A Wrinkle in Time."

"When they tesseract to the two-dimensional planet in the book — we don't do that," Sams says with a laugh.

"We've got gigantic puppets and all kinds of stuff to help us with some of our aliens," she says. "But while the things we have to do are tricky, it's a very sort of theatrical story that [Meg] goes on. It's very much a kind of hero's journey, and that's just been really fun to play with."

ROXANA HADADI

● *Round House Theatre Bethesda, 4545 East-West Highway, Bethesda; through Sun., $25-$60; 240-644-1100, Roundhousetheatre.org.*

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DAR Constitution Hall, Jan. 10, $53.50; 866-448-7849.

Gov't Mule, Warner Theatre, Dec. 28, $35; 866-448-7849.

Stand Up for WWE presents RAW World Tour, Verizon Center, Dec. 30, $60-$75; 866-448-7849.

Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt, Birchmere, Jan. 19, $122.35; 866-448-7849.

Robert Plant and the Band of Joy, DAR Constitution Hall, Feb. 1, $53.50; 866-448-7849.

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ILLUSTRATIONS: CHRIS MORRIS

SIZING UP SANTA

TWAS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
and all through the malls,
We were sizing up Santas while decking the halls.

This one dressed in rayon, from his head to his foot,
his pants were all sticky where old candy was put.
This Santa looked odd, with a bend in his back,
he seemed a bit scrawny, in need of a snack.

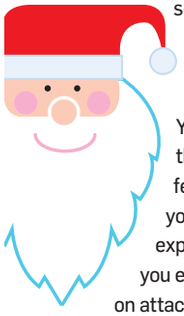
But one Santa twinkled with genuine jollity,
untroubled by questions of elf inequality.
His droll little mouth uttered nothing to dread,
the beard on his chin was tied tight to his head.

It's so hard to find a good Santa these days, he
has got to stay jolly amid Christmas crazy.
Then there's the line! And the elves:
Are they cheerful?
Or will this afternoon leave your toddler all tearful?

So check out our picks for Santas aplenty,
for memories and laughs, whether you're
three years or twenty. SHAUNA MILLER AND KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY

SANTA at Tyson's Corner Center

The region's most traditional mall-based Santa experience naturally involves fighting gridlock traffic and seething mobs at Tyson's Corner Center. You'll get all the suburban festiveness you've come to expect, if what you expect is a full-on attack of crowd-based claustrophobia.



ELFITUDE: On a busy Sunday, a full-sized elf who is no way getting paid enough amused kids with bubbles, magic and gentle razzing of passers-by.

CANDY CANE LANE: Peak-time wait was an hour. But there's an Auntie Anne's within scarfing distance.

BEARD QUALITY: Excellent, full beard with hippie long hair.

SCREAM COUNT: Only two meltdowns counted; this Santa was excellent at encouraging reluctant lap-sitters. Also has a GIANT chair, so entire families could (and did) get their picture taken at once.

OVERALL SCORE:
HO HO HO HO

Thanks to the superior elf and the lovely parting gift — your choice of a Rudolph coloring book or a Tyson's-branded "The Night Before Christmas" story.

Tyson's Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean; Thu., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; photo packages range from $15-$50; 703-847-7300; Shoptysons.com.

SANTA at The Fashion Centre at Pentagon City

Meet a convenient, Metro-accessible Santa with a prime spot smack dab in the middle of the food court. Ask for a bike, and then get some orange chicken once you're done.

ELFITUDE: No extra helpers in attendance on our visit, but the full-size civilian workers were full of Christmas cheer.

CANDY CANE LANE: Our visit occurred on a quiet day, but Santa occupies food-court-centric real estate, so at a busy time the noise could be deafening.

BEARD QUALITY: A more modern, metrosexual Santa, with short, sleek hair and a neatly trimmed beard, both snowy white.

SCREAM COUNT: None, but we did see adorable baby twins getting their picture taken. Awwww.

OVERALL SCORE:
HO HO HO

Excellent personnel, but the awkward location counts against this Man in Red.

The Fashion Center at Pentagon City, 1100 S. Hayes St., Arlington; Thu., 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m., photo packages range from $15-$50; 703-415-2401, Simon.com/mall. (Pentagon City)

SANTA at Prince George's Plaza

Santa is magic, so it makes sense that he could change his look to reflect the beautiful spectrum of children all over the world. Why most Santas in the D.C. area look like the Quaker Oats guy, then, is a real mystery. But, keeping it realer for the region, P.G. Plaza offers one of the region's only African-American Santas amid what can only be described as a terrifying Candyland board game tableau come to life.

ELFITUDE: No real elves to speak of, unless you count the lady from the key-cutting kiosk taking photo orders, or the sullen teenage photographer repeatedly squeaking a dog toy at his young subjects.

CANDY CANE LANE: This Santa keeps late hours, and the line wrapped all the way around the court on a recent Friday night — about a 35-minute wait. At least you're conveniently sandwiched between two jewelry stores.

BEARD QUALITY: This youthful and slender Kriss Kringle is "naturally bearded," with cropped salt-and-pepper whiskers.

SCREAM COUNT: Santa very patiently convinced an understandably reluctant little girl onto his velvet-and-silver goth throne.

OVERALL SCORE:
HO HO HO HO

Note: This Santa did not seem like one who would suffer the foolishness of teens or ironic 20-somethings.

Prince George's Plaza, 3500 East West Highway, Hyattsville; Thu., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., photo packages range from $20 to $45; 301-559-8844, Mallatprincegeorges.com.

WATERSKIING SANTA at National Harbor

The waterskiing Santa and his kneeboarding reindeer glide into their 25th year of keeping the X-treme in X-mas as they rule National Harbor with the jet-skiing Grinch, Frosty the Snowman in a dinghy and more.

ELFITUDE: Elves will work the line before the main event handing out candy canes and directing chilly parents toward coffee and shopping options on the harbor

CANDY CANE LANE: Prime viewing spots along the water are first-come, first-serve, but after the performance, kids can line up to get personal pics with a toweled-off Santa.

BEARD QUALITY: Is the beard real? According to Santa's media elf, "Uh, no." But Santa packs a full wetsuit under his traditional finery, so we are sure the stunt beard is an all-weather, high-performance model, too.

SCREAM COUNT: There is always the possibility of a 1967-Evel Knievel-at-Caesar's-Palace moment. Maybe have the Circle of Life convo with the kids before heading out.

OVERALL SCORE:
HO HO HO HO MG!

National Harbor, 150 National Plaza, Fort Washington; Friday, 1 p.m., free; 301-203-4189, Waterskiingsanta.com.

Our City, Second City

Chicago's legendary comedy troupe lands in Washington to mock our way of life

Comedy

When Second City comes to town, there's always a moment of indignation: Who are these people, coming from Chicago to make fun of D.C.? That's OUR job. But they are Second City, the legendary comedy troupe, and so we troop dutifully to their annual show at Woolly Mammoth. This year, it's "A Girl's Guide to Washington Politics," a collection of ultra-short sketches and songs, most based on the foibles found in our nation's fair capital.

Second City is often compared to "Saturday Night Live," which is most people's reference point for sketch comedy. But "SNL" tends to think of one funny joke and build a four-minute sketch around it. Second City, refreshingly, will think of a funny joke and build a 10-second sketch around it. Everything happens so fast, nothing has time to get old.

It's clear that the comedians have experienced the horror that is Dupont Circle traffic lights.

The traveling cast — which consists of Joey Bland, Brooke Breit, Lili-Anne Brown, Lori McClain and Rebecca Sohn — has mostly done its homework. There's a lot of political humor and a few regional jokes: It's clear that, while in D.C., the comedians have experienced the horror that is Dupont Circle traffic lights. And all the actors are skilled: They sing fake opera, improvise a musical and do decent impressions of everyone from Elena Kagan to Nancy Pelosi. A sequence about political wives in times of scandal is particularly strong, with the cast taking it from "too soon" to "this needs to be said," without losing their edge.

It's when the show veers into sincerity that it may become harder for seasoned residents of the District to take seriously. One particularly guileless refrain represents the American people as 300 million individuals "who just want to be counted in any way." With a 42 percent midterm voter turnout rate ringing in your head, it may take everything you have not to scream, "THEN YOU SHOULD VOTE!"

FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

Who needs "Weekend Update"? Second City takes everything good about "Saturday Night Live" and makes it funnier.

COURTESY SECOND CITY

Jokes about Medicare? Second City knows just what Washington wants.

● *Woolly Mammoth, 641 D St. NW; through Jan. 9, $15-$65; 202-393-3939, Woollymammoth.net.*

The Sun Sets on 'Boulevard'

Signature Theater brings a challenging film to life on stage

Theater

If you haven't seen the film "Sunset Boulevard," it's the story of a disillusioned writer, Joe, who stumbles accidentally on faded silent screen star Norma Desmond, who's secluded herself in a mansion for 30 years with only her butler for company.

Signature Theater, known for paring down massive musicals, has mounted Andrew Lloyd Webber's adaptation of one of the great films of the '50s, with D.B. Bonds as Joe and Florence Lacey as Norma Desmond. The production, directed by Eric Schaeffer and running through Feb. 13, inspired us to make a list of caveats for others who would adapt movies into musicals:

Make the Most of the Music

For someone who has written so many musicals, Webber doesn't get how they work. It's not that these are showstoppers in the rough; it's that they shove the story along without any emotional peaks. Even the love songs here can't move the audience.

Pacing Is Your Friend

This production's orchestra plows through every song at breakneck speed. But when Lacey is allowed to take her time, she's excellent: Norma's first visit to the movie studio in decades combines Lacey's stunning presence with some clever lighting in a moment that'll give you chills.

Understand the Limitations of the Stage

Unfortunately, Norma is a character who walks a perilous line between tragic and ridiculous, and by the play's end, Lacey's Norma is reduced to a panoply of Bette Davis clichés. By the close, the audience is left conflicted over whether to laugh or applaud, despite the fact that "Sunset Boulevard" is unequivocally a tragedy. FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

● *Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; through Feb. 13, $70-$80; 703-820-9771.*

CHRISMUELLER

D.B. Bonds and Florence Lacey make the best of it in "Sunset Boulevard."

Say It Loud

SHOUT FACTORY

WHEN JAMES BROWN died on Dec. 25, 2006, a little bit of Christmas died with him. But he would not have wanted us to mourn. No, the Godfather of Soul would want us to dance. DJ Soul Call Paul will work the wheels of steel Friday night in Brown's honor, so get those Christmas hot pants on and get on up to the Black Cat.

Little World, Big Ideas

Hans Op De Beeck's film work looks at the power of playfulness at the Hirshhorn

Museum

COURTESY HIRSHHORN

Belgian artist Hans Op De Beeck's short film work "Staging Silence" explores the transformational power of whimsy in art.

Think back to rainy childhood days spent indoors, moving tiny pieces of furniture around doll house rooms and building elaborate sets for miniature toy adventures. Belgian visual artist Hans Op De Beeck explores this world anew in his film work, "Staging Silence," on view now at the Hirshhorn.

The 22-minute high-definition video has the crisp black-and-white look of a perfectly restored noir — but that's where the darkness ends. The film trains a lens on a small stage, which is continually transformed by hands just out of frame. A multitiered cake is whittled into a tiny, decayed antebellum mansion; an office space veers from dull to festive and back again with party flags, balloons and changing shadows; a trailer park goes from night to day with the aid of a lightbulb and some carefully placed cotton balls.

Without any actors with whom to identify, viewers are instead free to project their own impressions, emotions and ideas onto the tiny sets, assisted by an alternately cheery and discordant soundtrack.

If all of this sounds conceptual, the overall feel of "Staging Silence is more whimsical than avant-garde. The film is almost defiantly fun, a reminder that art needn't be stuffy to be valuable — and that improvisation is a necessary element of creation.

Hirshhorn curator Kelly Gordon says that, while the scale of the museum's Black Box venue makes "Staging Silence" "more immersive and less toyland-like," the strength of the work still lies in its playfulness.

> **"Some days, [I] let my eye lead my mind into that little trailer perched on top of the hill."**
>
> — **KELLY GORDON,** CURATOR, HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

"All good art experiences are subject to viewer mood and whatever one brings to it," Gordon says. "At the same time, art can take your mood somewhere unexpected."

For Gordon, Op De Beeck's quirky piece provides a refuge from the buzz of her downtown workday.

"I most enjoy how this work is a relief from the 'noise' of the mediaized world," she explains. "Some days, [I] let my eye lead my mind into that little trailer perched on top of the hill." **JESSICA ROAKE**

● *Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, 7th Street and Independence Avenue SW; daily (closed Dec. 25), through Feb. 27, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., free; 202-633-1000, Hirshhorn.si.edu. (L'Enfant Plaza)*

Save the Last Dance

FITSUM BELAY

DJ MARK ZIMIN'S Mousetrap has provided a soundtrack for indie-rocker soft-shoeing for nigh on a decade. But this is it, folks. Exit stage left. Say your solemn goodbyes with Zimin and DJ Stereofaith, pictured, Christmas night at the Black Cat.

Spank Rock 'n' Roll

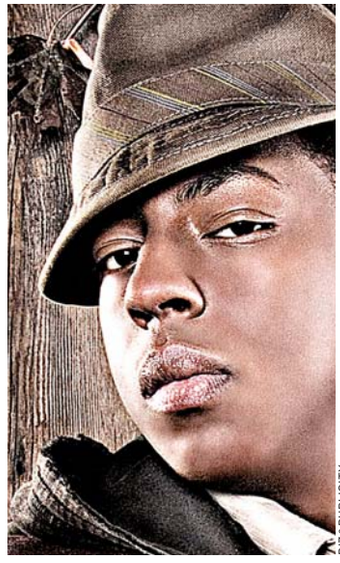
The Baltimore rapper returns to put the daze in your holiday

Music

One minute, Baltimore-born rapper Spank Rock says he's 12; the next, he's 45. But one thing is certain: The man also known as Naeem Juwan doesn't want to grow up.

"I don't want to think about all these ... responsibilities in the music business, and it's not cool," says an admittedly hungover Spank Rock of his new year's resolution. "So, I'm just gonna make sure that I stay young and be happy this year."

Despite his ambition to pull a Peter Pan in 2011, Spank Rock is hardly a slacker. His sophomore album is due out next summer, and he'll be performing Thursday at "Holiday Roadhouse," the seventh-annual Baltimore Bass Connection holiday party at Sonar.



BIZ 3 PUBLICITY

Spank Rock returns to Baltimore Thursday and plans to sleep in Friday.

"We always get in trouble with our families the next day, because it's Christmas Eve and we're still passed out in some hotel room somewhere," says Spank Rock, who now lives in Philadelphia.

But Baltimore, where Spank Rock cut his teeth on the city's club-music scene, will always be home. "When I was growing up, [Baltimore] was its own thing," Spank Rock says of the scene. "No one was partying like that. No one danced like that. You couldn't find that music anywhere else. The parties were always hypersexual — young teen angst and energy. That carries into my music."

The challenge — after keeping down breakfast in Friday morning's aftermath — will be channeling that energy into an evolving sound.

"Before, I was just, like, druggie tunnel vision, a party animal," he says. "But I think the best thing about music is sharing your voice and your experience for other people to relate to. You've just got to sit down and write." **ROXANA HADADI**

● *Sonar, 407 E. Saratoga St., Baltimore; Thu. 8 p.m., with the Death Set, Devlin & Darko, Po Po, Dope Body, Dances With White Girls, Jubilee, Scottie B, Hoff, Prince Klassen, Them O's, Cullen Stalin and Adam Gonzo; $15 advance, $20 at the door; 410-783-7888, Sonarbaltimore.com.*

Weekend Pass | film

take five

WALT DISNEY PICTURES

Olivia Wilde, we would gladly live inside Pong if it meant hanging out with you.

1 Tron: Legacy
In this loud, long and less-than-wholly satisfying sequel to the 1982 sci-fi cult classic "Tron," poor computer nerd Kevin Flynn (Jeff Bridges) suffers the terrible fate of being trapped in a computer game with Olivia Wilde.

2 Yogi Bear
An uninspired studio product that demands as little from the audience as it did from its writers, directors and actors, "Yogi Bear" mixes anodyne live-action nature with animated animal hijinks.

3 The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader
There's heavy stuff if you're looking for it in director Michael Apted's "Narnia." But it doesn't spoil the great, great fun to be had with this film if you're not.

4 The Fighter
If you think "Rocky" and "Raging Bull" define the alpha and omega of boxing movies, think again. David O. Russell's "The Fighter" proves there's still punch in the genre, especially when a filmmaker tells a familiar story in a brand-new way.

5 Tangled
Rapunzel's home life may be a study in passive-aggressive dysfunction, but for the most part, "Tangled" is zippy and engaging, especially when the wide-eyed heroine joins forces with cocky bandit Flynn.

> FILM REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE GOINGOUTGUIDE.COM/MOVIES.

Doing Women's Work

Director Nigel Cole discusses telling a little-known story in 'Made in Dagenham'

Director Q&A

"Made in Dagenham" is kind of like "Norma Rae," but with a British accent. The true story of female autoworkers in England who band together to achieve equal pay stars Sally Hawkins as Rita O'Grady, an unlikely feminist who spearheads the movement. Director Nigel Cole spoke to Express about why it took until now to tell the story and about being a man in a woman's world.

COURTESY SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Sally Hawkins prepares for a scene with "Made in Dagenham" director Nigel Cole.

Is this story well-known in the U.K.?
No, nobody knows the story. I grew up four or five miles outside of Dagenham and had never heard of it. Women's stories are too often written out of history.

Why do you think that is?
It was partly due to the impressive lack of vanity these women had. They didn't seek any glory or fame — they scored this great victory and then went back to their families and disappeared.

Was Rita's fight based on grand ideals, or did it come from a more innate sense of fairness?
It's what I loved about this story — these are ordinary women. These are not women who were politically engaged. They were simply annoyed. They resented being paid less; they were being paid the same rate as the men who swept the floors. They tried to protest and nobody listened; nobody was listening because they were women. This is not about politics, not about people who are interested in politics.

> **"Nobody knows the story. ... Women's stories are too often written out of history."**

Did anyone have a problem with you, as a man, directing what's essentially a woman's story?
Everyone was very polite. They may have been thinking that, but no one said it to me directly. I wish a woman director could have made this film. But I was concerned to portray the men as fairly as the women, though we have fun at men's expense. Rita's husband goes through a huge learning curve and has to adjust, and I felt his story was equally important. All of us men, we struggle with [women's] equality. We're making it up as we go along.

KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

Classic Films Cure The Holiday Blues

indies & arties

Sick of your family this holiday weekend? Visit one that's unhappy in an entirely different way Sunday at the National Gallery of Art with Duvivier's **"ANNA KARENINA."** Vivien Leigh is the title character in this largely unrecognized film, but the real star is the very look of the film. Duvivier, who's one of the "Big Five" of French cinema, is known for his ornate style, and this film is no exception. Elaborate costumes and settings help, but Duvivier (and cinematographer Henri Alekan) also use lighting and camera movement to create a suspenseful, dark world where pretty much everyone ends up betrayed. So, just like Christmas!

If you don't feel like spending Boxing Day in Russia, get to the museum a little earlier Sunday and catch **"TALES OF MANHATTAN,"** which combines an all-star cast (Rita Hayworth! Henry Fonda! Charles Laughton! Paul Robeson!) with a story of a cursed tailcoat that travels through a multitude of people, tying them together in unlikely ways. Ten screenwriters collaborated on this comedy about cursed clothing and the unlikely successes that come with bad luck.

How about a little television break? Later in the week, the NGA is also showing two episodes of a 1975 British series called **"THE BROTHERHOOD: THE LOVE SCHOOL,"** which focuses on the lives of the Pre-Raphaelites. Ben Kingsley is Dante Gabriel Rosetti, one of the members of the group that formed to take on the stodgy Royal Academy of Arts. It's like "Rebel Without a Cause," only British, and the cause is the importance of feeling and spirit over classical technique. Also, fewer motorcycles.

COURTESY PHOTOFEST

Paul Robeson, right, has issues in Julien Duvivier's 1942 film "Tales of Manhattan."

The screening accompanies the "The Pre-Raphaelite Lens: British Photography and Painting, 1848-1875" exhibition on view now at the museum. The show, which focuses on photography from Lewis Carroll and Julia Margaret Cameron, takes the ideas of the Pre-Raphaelites and combines them with the new medium of photography in an explosion of sweetly lush, slightly sexy images. So, while you may be learning, at least it's sensual learning. Thank you, BBC and your crazy, educational miniseries! KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

● *National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Constitution Avenue NW; see Nga.gov for showtimes, free; 202-737-4215. (Archives)*

top stops WEEKEND

1

Oh, Come, Let Us Adore Falafel

Not into the birth of Christ? Well, there are many legitimate reasons for that. So, while your friends are having idyllic family Christmases around a cozy fireplace, content yourself with the Falafel Frenzy, a drink-for-the-cause night at Local 16 that benefits local food programs through the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. There will be drink specials throughout the evening, but, oddly, it does not appear that actual falafel is being served. This event is apparently about some sort of metaphorical falafel of hope. ➜ *Local 16, 1602 U St. NW; Fri., 9 p.m., $25, $20 in advance; 202-271-2456, Localsixteen.com. (U St.-Cardozo)*

2

Swing Shift

If drinking on Christmas just seems too sad, you can party wholesomely at the Hollywood Ballroom's swing dance party. Food and prizes accompany this retro evening — which is good, since you really don't know how to dance. ➜ *Hollywood Ballroom, 2126 Industrial Parkway, Silver Spring; Sat., 8 p.m., $15; 301-622-5494.*

3

Party With a Purpose

The folks at the D.C. Jewish Community Center know how to party, but they need your help to bring holiday cheer to several area shelters this Christmas Eve. Register online at Washingtondcjcc.org to volunteer to make the season brighter for those less fortunate with food, prizes and games at organizations all over town. ➜ *1529 16th St. NW; Fri. all day, visit Washingtondcjcc.org to register, $20; 202-518-9400.*

4

They're Laughing *With* You

Seeing plays on holidays always makes us feel bad: If not for our selfish need for entertainment, these poor actors would be home with their families! But if Christmas Day makes you too depressed to go on, you might try the tonic of "Seasonal Disorder," an improv holiday show from Washington Improv Theater. Unless improv comedy makes you too depressed to go on. ➜ *Source Theater, 1835 14th St. NW; through Dec. 31, $12; 202-204-7800, Washingtonimprovtheater.com. (U St.-Cardozo)*

5

Keep Class in Christmas

The Kennedy Center features performances every single day, and we will be forever grateful to them for eschewing the carols on Christmas and instead making a tradition of bringing together jazz musicians for an annual jam session. This year, vibraphonist Chuck Redd will host the festivities. ➜ *Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Sat., 6 p.m., free; 202-467-4600, Kennedy-center.org. (Foggy Bottom)*

▶sound

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THURSDAY

Black Cat: DJ Dribble, 8 p.m., free.
Blues Alley: Chaise Lounge, 8 & 10 p.m., $20.
Iota: Hoots & Hellmouth, 8:30 p.m., $12.
Jammin' Java: Todd Wright's 8th Annual Santa Clausterf@%! Christmas Spectacular, 8 p.m., sold out.
Kennedy Center/Concert Hall: Messiah Singalong, 8 p.m., free.
Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: Encore Chorale, 6 p.m., free.
Rams Head Tavern: O'Malley's March, 6:30 & 9:30 p.m., $25.
Red Palace: The Escape Artist, Dogs Without Borders, Voyage In Coma, 9 p.m., $8.
Rock & Roll Hotel: Modern Times Christmas Show, 7:30 p.m., $10.
State Theatre: Santa Jam XIV, 8 p.m., $10.
Twins Jazz: Ari Melinger-Cohen, 8 & 10 p.m., $10.
U Street Music Hall: Worthy, Joel Chandler, Clinis, 9 p.m., $5, free (with canned good).
Velvet Lounge: Navi, Metro Rail, Reemstarr, 9 p.m., $8.

FRIDAY

Black Cat: DJ Saadat Awan, 9:30 p.m., $7.
Jammin' Java: Good for the Jews, 7 p.m., $20.
Kennedy Center/Concert Hall: Choral Arts Society of Washington Christmas Concert, 1 p.m., $15-$65;
Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: Beltway Brass Quintet Concert, 6 p.m., free.
Twins Jazz: Hope Udobi, 9 & 11 p.m., $15.
U Street Music Hall: Rockmaster Rus B, Joe L, Navbox & Rosario, 10 p.m., $5.

SATURDAY

Black Cat: DJ Mark Zimin, Stereofaith, 9:30 p.m., $10; Soul Call Paul, 9:30 p.m., $6.
Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: All-Star Christmas Day Jazz Jam, 6 p.m., free.
Rock & Roll Hotel: DJ The Metaphysical, 9:30 p.m., free.

Continued on page E10

Compiled by Express' Fiona Zublin. Find more of our daily picks — and what's coming up this weekend — at expressnightout.com/topstops.

WeekendPass | goingoutguide.com

Continued from page E9

SUNDAY

Black Cat: The Forms, Jaguar Shark, 9 p.m., $8.

Blues Alley: Monty Alexander, 8 & 10 p.m., $35.

Iota: Benefit show for Arlington Planetarium, 8 p.m., $10.

Jammin' Java: Poor Man's Lobster, Funkmnkyz, the Arctic Groove, 7:30 p.m., $10-$13.

Rams Head Tavern: Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes, 7 p.m., $50.

Twins Jazz: Eric Mayo, 8 & 10 p.m., $10.

▶sight

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Addison/Ripley: "No Edition: Painterly Prints," works by Lou Stovall, opening Sat., through Jan. 22. 1670 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-338-5180, Addisonripleyfineart.com.

Alliance Francaise: "Charley de Limur: Home Landscapes, Work From California, the East Coast and France," a solo show by the California artist, through Jan. 10. 2142 Wyoming Ave. NW; 202-234-7911, Francedc.org.

American Painting: "Small Treasures," more than 100 works by members of the gallery, the Washington Society of Landscape Painters and guest artists, through Jan. 15. 5118 MacArthur Blvd. NW; 202-244-3244.

Arlington Arts Center: "Party Crashers: Comic Book Culture Invades the Art World," a look at the similarities and differences between contemporary artists and comic book images, with a second part of the exhibition on display at Artisphere, through Jan. 15. 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-248-6800, Arlingtonartscenter.org.

Art Museum of the Americas: "Al Margen," Petra Barth's photos showcase Latin America and the Caribbean from 2004 to the present, through Jan. 7. "Argentina in Focus: Visualizing the Concept," works by Cristian Segura and Sergio Vega, through Jan. 2. "Vidas Minadas: Diez Años" ("Mined Lives: Ten Years"), a solo exhibition by artist Gervasio Sánchez will be on display on the museum's second floor, through Jan. 2. 201 18th St. NW; 202-458-6016, Museum.oas.org.

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery: "Fiona Tan: Rise and Fall," a collection of stills and video from the Indonesian art-

Welcome to Sunnydale

CHARTERHOUSE MUSIC GROUP

DEMON DANCING: Hoots & Hellmouth bring their little-bit-folk, little-bit-gospel, all-the-way awesome talents to Iota on Thursday night. Even if the music's not your thing, at least see founder Sean Hoots' rocking ginger beard.

venues

➜ **BLACK CAT:** 1811 14TH ST. NW; 202-667-4490, BLACKCATDC.COM.

➜ **BLUES ALLEY:** 1073 WISCONSIN AVE. NW (REAR); 202-337-4141, BLUESALLEY.COM.

➜ **IOTA CLUB & CAFE:** 2832 WILSON BLVD., ARLINGTON, VA; 703-522-8340, IOTACLUBANDCAFE.COM.

➜ **JAMMIN' JAVA:** 227 MAPLE AVE. E., VIENNA, VA; 703-255-1566, JAMMINJAVA.COM.

➜ **KENNEDY CENTER:** TERRACE THEATER: 2700 F ST. NW; 202-467-4600. 800-444-1324, KENNEDY-CENTER.ORG.

➜ **RAMS HEAD TAVERN:** 33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS, MD; 410-268-4545, RAMSHEADTAVERN.COM.

➜ **RED PALACE:** 1212 H ST. NE; 202-399-3201, REDANDBLACKBAR.COM.

➜ **ROCK & ROLL HOTEL:** 1353 H ST. NE; 202-388-7625, ROCKANDROLLHOTELDC.COM.

➜ **STATE THEATRE:** 220 N. WASHINGTON ST., FALLS CHURCH, VA; 703-237-0300, THESTATETHEATRE.COM.

➜ **TWINS JAZZ:** 1344 U ST. NW; 202-234-0072, TWINSJAZZ.COM.

➜ **U STREET MUSIC HALL:** 1115 U ST. NW; 202-588-1880, USTREETMUSICHALL.COM.

➜ **VELVET LOUNGE:** 915 U ST. NW; 202-462-3213, VELVETLOUNGEDC.COM.

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Governor-a-Go-Go

KEVIN CLARK/THE WASHINGTON POST

CHESAPEAKE ROCKFISH: Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (left) and his band, O'Malley's March, take to the stage at Ram's Head on Thursday. On vocals and acoustic guitar for the Celtc-inspired band, O'Malley penned some of band's songs.

ist, through Jan. 16. "Gods of Angkor: Bronzes From the National Museum of Cambodia," a collection of Cambodian sculptures, through Jan. 23. "Shahnama: 1000 Years of the Persian Book of Kings," illustrations from the Shahnama, which tells the story of Iran up until the conquest of Islam, and paintings it has inspired, through April 17. 1050 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-1000, Asia.si.edu.

Artisphere: "Fields and Networks," Alice Whealin's ink drawings, through Jan. 8. "Unfolding Folding: Collider," an interactive installation examining the geometry of crystals, through Jan. 12. 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-875-1100.

Athenaeum: "Molded From Complicated Mixtures," paintings based on plastic children's toys by Megan Marlatt, through Jan. 2. 201 Prince St., Alexandria; 703-548-0035, Nvfaa.org.

BlackRock Center for the Arts: Carol Brown Goldberg, Sondra Arkin & and Greg Minah, acrylic & encaustic works fromt he artists, through Dec. 31. 12901 Town Commons Dr., Germantown; 301-528-2260, Blackrockcenter.org.

Carroll Square Gallery: "Artwork by Tracy's Kids," young cancer patients and their families use art as therapy, opening Fri., through Jan. 7. 975 F St. NW; 202-624-8643.

Corcoran Gallery of Art: "Spencer Finch: My Business, With the Cloud," the local artist examines clouds in this exhibit presented as part of the "NOW at the Corcoran" series, through Jan. 23. "Washington Color and Light," selections from the museum's collection of work by the Washington Color School of the 1950s-70s, and more modern work, through March 6; "Robert Irwin: Gypsu Switch," the artist seeks to expand the realm of human perception through art and architecture, through March 6. 500 17th St. NW; 202-639-1700, Corcoran.org.

Curator's Office: "Barock Girls," Victoria F. Gaitán's and Cecilia Paredes' baroque photographs, through Jan. 7. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-387-1008, Curatorsoffice.com.

Folger Shakespeare Library: "Vivat Rex!," documents examining the life of Henry VIII, through Dec. 30. 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-4600, Folger.edu.

Freer Gallery of Art: "Ancient Chinese Jades and Bronzes," more than 100 pieces in jade and bronze showing the Liangzhu culture, through Aug. 1; "Chinamania: Whistler and the Victorian Craze for Blue and White," includes blue-and-white Chinese ceramic dishes, as well as drawings, paintings and etchings by James McNeill Whistler, through Aug. 1; "Cornucopia: Ceramics From Southern Japan," a variety of glazed and decorated objects, through Jan. 9. Jefferson Drive and 12th Street SW; 202-633-1000, Asia.si.edu.

Gallery 555: "10' x 2' x 8 Artists," eight artists will have a small area to display their work, through Jan. 14. 555 12th St. NW; 202-393-1409, Gallery555dc.com.

Gateway Arts Center: "Compressed Narratives: Peter Gordon, Aniko Makranczy and Juan Rojo Acebes," an exhibition of works by three artists with diverse backgrounds, through Dec. 30. "Vintage Visions: African American Cinema Posters," the posters will be on display at Gallery 110, through Jan. 8. 3901 Rhode Island Ave., Brentwood; 301-864-3860.

Goethe-Institut: "Documentary Photography 07/08," works by winners of the Wüstenrot Foundation Award, through Jan. 28. 812 Seventh St. NW; 202-289-1200, Goethe.de/ins/us/was/enindex.htm.

LAST CHANCE Hemphill: "Julia Wolfe," the artist's works intertwine images

Continued on page E12

IN DAGENHAM, ENGLAND IN 1968, IN THE FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS, AN ORDINARY WOMAN ACHIEVES SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY.
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Continued from page E11

of life and death, through Dec. 23. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-234-5601, Hemphillfinearts.com.

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden: "Black Box: Hans Op de Beeck," a dark background offsets lighting effects and black and white film, as well as sculpture, painting, drawing and installations, through Feb. 27; "Colorforms," the exhibit explores the history of artists' fascinations with abstract color from World War II to the present, through Jan. 2; "Directions: Mario Garcia Torres and Cyprien Gaillard," the two artists examine recent art, through March 27; "Guillermo Kuitca: Everything, Paintings and Works on Paper, 1980-2008," more than two decades of paintings by the Argentine artist, through Jan. 16. Seventh Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, Hirshhorn.si.edu.

Historical Society of Washington: "East of the River: Continuity and Change," a traveling exhibit of the Anacostia Community Museum, this display looks at Washington communities east of the river, through Jan. 1. 801 K St. NW; 202-383-1850, Historydc.org.

International Visions: "Yaw Oboubi: Rhythmic Pulse," yarn collages by the Ghanaian artist , through Jan. 22. 2629 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-234-5112.

Jerusalem Fund: "Art of the Moghuls: Kashmir Shawls," a history of the shawl, through Jan. 7. 2425 Virginia Ave. NW; 202-338-1958, Thejerusalemfund.org.

Long View Gallery: "New Work," Paula Crawford's paintings mimic hepatitis C, which she was diagnosed with, through Jan. 16. 1302 Ninth St. NW; 202-232-4788.

Mexican Cultural Institute: "Weaving Diversity: Textiles From Oaxaca," an exhibit of attire common in the late 19th and 20th centuries, through Feb. 26. 2829 16th St. NW; 202-728-1628, Portal.sre.gob.mx.

National Academy of Sciences, Keck Center: "Art & Science," an exhibit highlighting the artwork collection by the National Academy of Sciences, on display by appointment only, through April 2. 2012. 500 Fifth St. NW; 202-334-2436, Nationalacademies.org/arts.

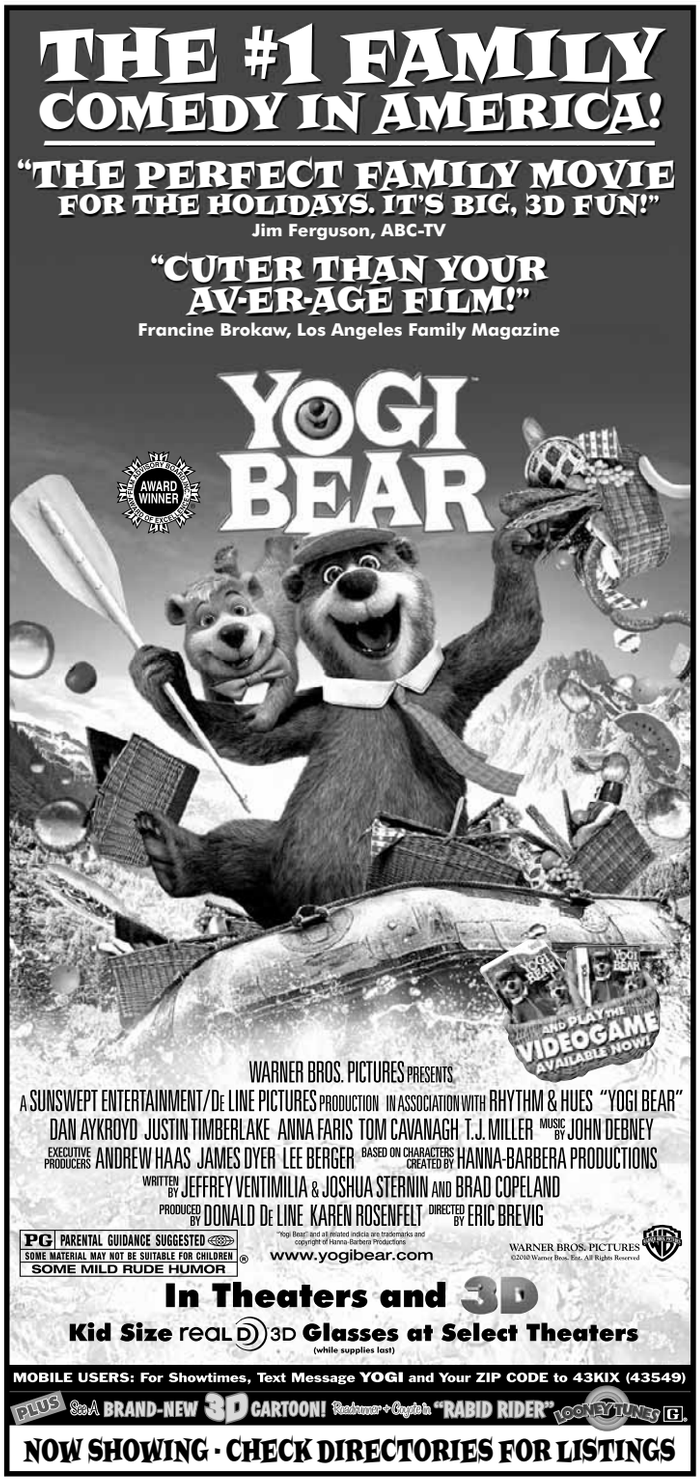
National Air and Space Museum: "Barron Hilton: Pioneers of Flight Gallery," the museum's exhibit of aviation and rocketry in the 1920s and '30s reopened with additional artifacts, through May 2; "Beyond: Visions of Our Solar System," through May 2. "Moving Beyond Earth," an interactive exhibition that explores recent advances made in human spaceflight, ongoing. Sixth Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, Nasm.si.edu.

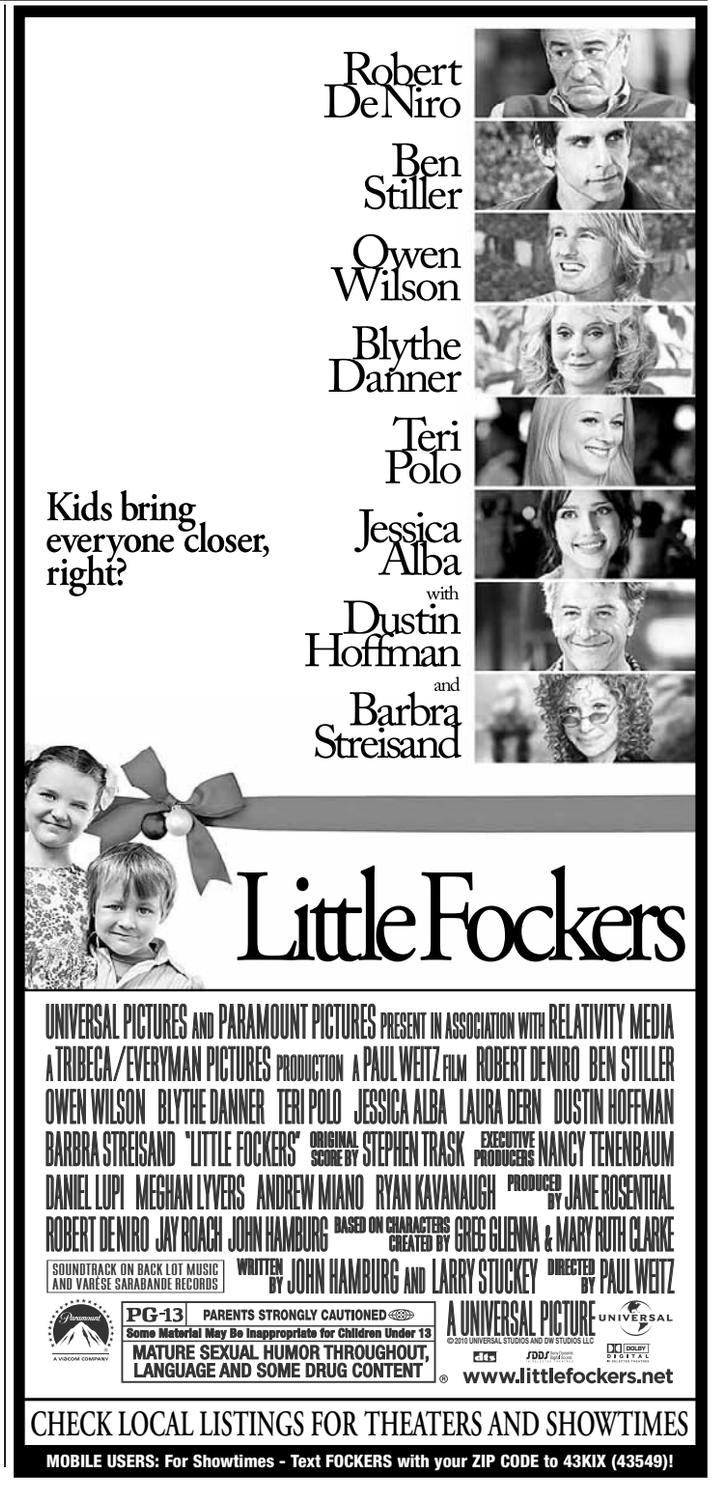
National Building Museum: "Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s," a look at the legacy of the fairs in Chicago, San Diego, Dallas, Cleveland, San Francisco and New York during the Great Depression, through

COURTESY RENWICK GALLERY

Beyond Whittling

A LITTLE LATHE, A LITTLE TALENT: More than 60 pieces of turned and carved wood are on display through Jan. 30 as part of "A Revolution in Wood: The Bresler Collection" at the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery. Just no knocking on the pieces for luck.





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Face to Vase

FEELING BLUE: The "Chinamania" exhibit at the Freer features art from James McNeill Whistler (you know, the guy with the dour-looking mom), who liked to paint and sketch the blue-and-white porcelain from China that took England by storm during the 19th century.

COURTESY FREER GALLERY

July 10; "Lego Architecture: Towering Ambition," architectural artist Adam Reed Tucker uses Lego blocks to re-create landmarks including the Empire State Building, through Sept. 5. 401 F St. NW; 202-272-2448, Nbm.org.

National Gallery of Art, West Building: "From Impressionism to Modernism: The Chester Dale Collection," through Jan. 2, 2012; "The Pre-Raphaelite Lens: British Photography and Painting, 1848-1875," a look at nearly 100 photographs and 20 paintings by British artists, through Jan. 30. Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW; 202-737-4215, Nga.gov.

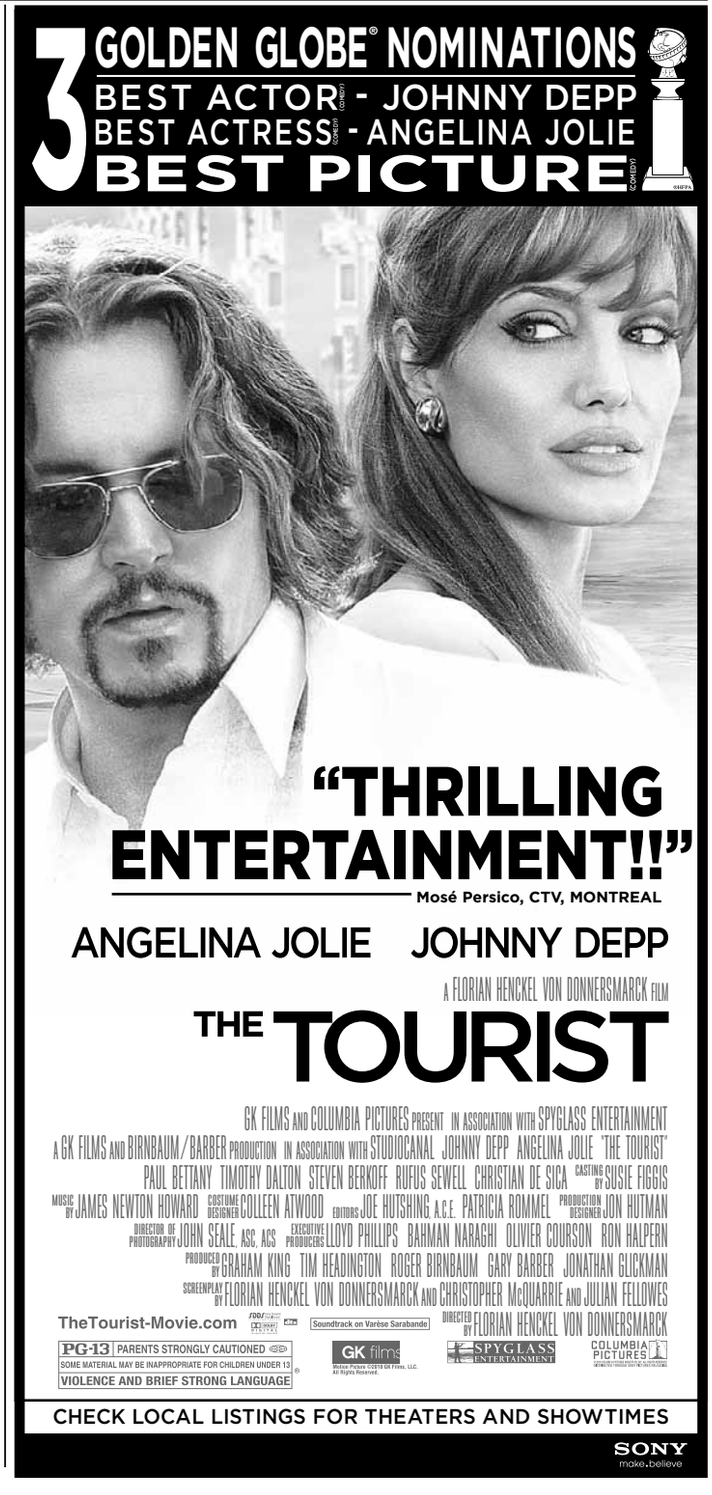
National Museum of African Art: "African Mosaic: Celebrating a Decade of Collecting," a collection of 112 objects that represent 10 years of building a permanent collection, through Dec. 11, 2011. 950 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-4600, Africa.si.edu.

National Museum of American History: "A Gateway to the 19th Century: The William Steinway Diary, 1861ñ1896," an exhibit on the diary kept by William Steinway, the first president of the piano company Steinway & Sons, that tracks the Civil War and the development of New York City, through April 8; "The Kinsey Collection: Shared Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey — Where Art and History Intersect," a look at African American history through books, sculptures, paintings, manuscripts and vintage photographs, through May 1; "Abraham Lincoln: An Extraordinary Life," the museum brings together its unique and unparalleled Lincoln collection for the first time, through May 30; "Paper Engineering: Fold, Pull, Pop and Turn," pop-up books from 1570 to today show their evolution from education on things such as the workings of the human heart to children's books, through Oct. 10, 2011. 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, Americanhistory.si.edu.

LAST CHANCE National Museum of Natural History: "Celebrating 100 Years at the National Museum of Natural History," a photographic exhibition recalling the museum's evolution, through March 20; "Cyprus: Crossroads of Civilizations," a look at the history of the Mediterranean island over 1,000 years, through May 1; "Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef," a recent discovery of geometry in coral reefs is looked at through crochet, through April 24. 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, Mnh.si.edu.

National Museum of the American Indian: "Up Where We Belong: Native Musicians in Popular Culture" highlights the contributions of Native Americans to contemporary music, through Jan. 2. "Vantage Point: The Contemporary Native Art Collection," a look at the museum's contemporary art examining the past and present of Native Americans, through Aug. 7. Fourth Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-

Continued on page E14



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Continued from page E13

1000, Nmai.si.edu.

National Museum of Women in the Arts: "Books Without Words: The Visual Poetry of Elisabetta Gut," a display of visual poetry in the form of books, collage-poems and book-objects, through Jan. 16. 1250 New York Ave. NW; 202-783-5000, Nmwa.org.

National Portrait Gallery: "Americans Now" surveys the past 10 years in popular culture, through June 19; "Elvis at 21: Photographs by Alfred Wertheimer," photographs capturing Elvis Presley's transition into an American icon, through Jan. 23; "Glimpse of the Past: A Neighborhood Evolves," a photographic exploration of the neighborhood surrounding the Patent Office Building, through Jan. 8, 2012; "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture" illustrates the changing social attitudes toward sexual difference and how they are depicted, through Feb. 13; "One Life: Katharine Graham," the Washington Post publisher's life is portrayed through photographs, portraits, video, drawings and newspaper clippings, through May 30. Eighth and F streets NW; 202-633-1000, Npg.si.edu.

Newseum: "Athlete: The Sports Illustrated Photography of Walter Looss," through Dec. 31, 2011; "Covering Katrina," a look at the hurricane through the eyes of journalists covering it, through Sept. 5; "Elvis! His Groundbreaking, Hip-Shaking, Newsmaking Story," an exhibit about Elvis Presley as he was portrayed in the media, through Feb. 14; "G-Men and Journalists: Top News Stories of the FBI's First Century," coverage of the FBI's most famous investigations, through Dec. 31, 2011; "Inside Tim Russert's Office: If It's Sunday, It's 'Meet the Press,'" the former show's host's office is partially reassembled, through Dec. 31, 2011; "The Pelican Brief," through Thu., 7 p.m. 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 888-639-7386, Newseum.org.

Phillips Collection: "Coburn and the Photographic Portfolio," selections of Coburn's book illustrations will be displayed, through Jan. 9; "Installations: Jae Ko," the artist presents his three-part installation called "Force of Nature," made from packing paper, through Feb. 20; "Side by Side: Oberlin's Masterworks at the Phillips," works from the Allen Memorial Art Museum at Oberlin and the Phillips' permanent collection, through Jan. 16; "TruthBeauty: Pictorialism and the Photograph as Art, 1845-1945," more than 130 photographs that explore the evolution of pictorialism over 100 years, through Jan. 9. 1600 21st St. NW; 202-387-2151, Phillipscollection.org.

Renwick Gallery: "A Revolution in Wood: The Bresler Collection," a collection of 66 well-known works of turned and carved wood, through Jan. 30; "The Art of Gaman," a showcase of arts and

Southern Lights

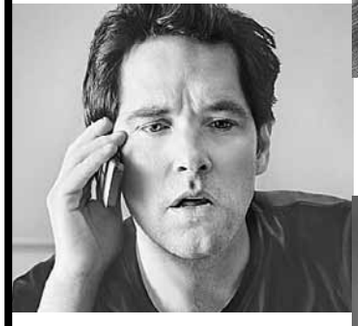
LIVE FROM BUENOS AIRES: Works from 32 of Argentina's greatest living artists are on display in the bilingual exhibition "Southern Identity: Contemporary Argentine Art," running through next month at the S. Dillon Ripley Center. Politics, religion and even barbeque get their time in the spotlight. Paintings, sculpture and video works from the 1940s to today make up the broad-ranging collection, which was mounted with help from Argentina's Secretariat of Culture.

JUAN CARLOS DISTEFANO

"FLAT-OUT THE FINEST ROMANTIC COMEDY OF THE YEAR."
RICHARD CORLISS, TIME

"WITHERSPOON AND RUDD SPAR BEAUTIFULLY, RELISHING JAMES L. BROOKS' TASTY DIALOGUE."
PETER TRAVERS, Rolling Stone

"THE MUST-SEE MOVIE OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON."
MIKE SARGENT, WBAI-RADIO



"SMART AND ENTERTAINING."
MARSHALL FINE, STAR

"ONE OF THE SMARTEST, SWEETEST AND DOWNRIGHT BEST ROMANTIC COMEDIES IN YEARS."
JAKE HAMILTON, FOX-TV

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PRODUCED BY JAMES L. BROOKS PAULA WEINSTEIN LAURENCE MARK JULIE ANSELL WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JAMES L. BROOKS
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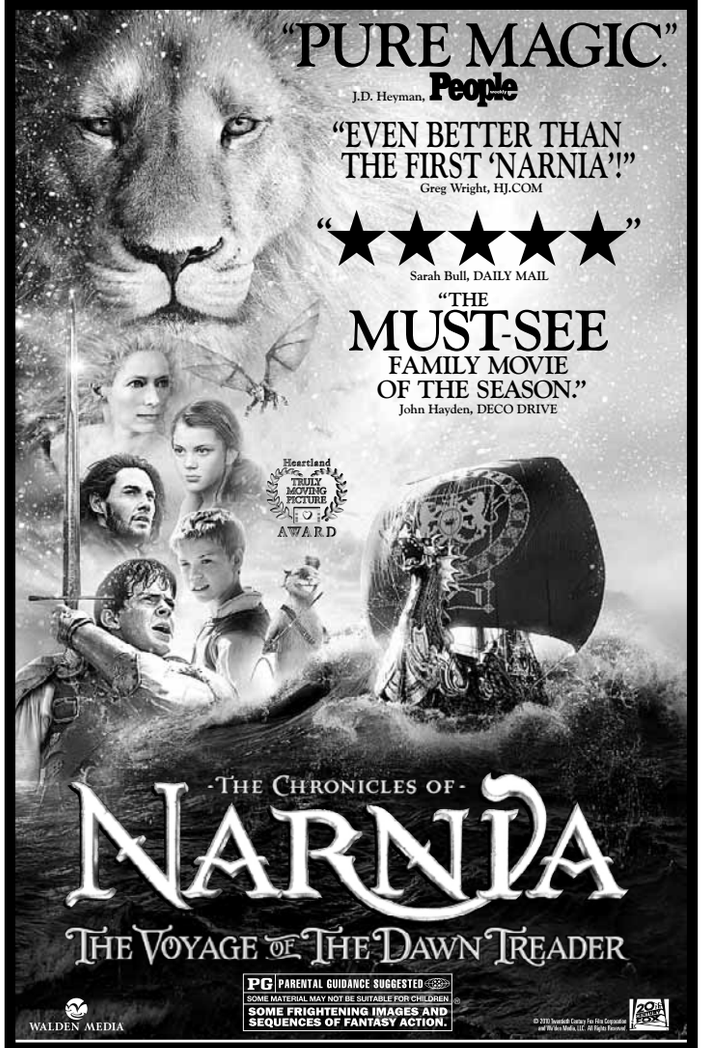

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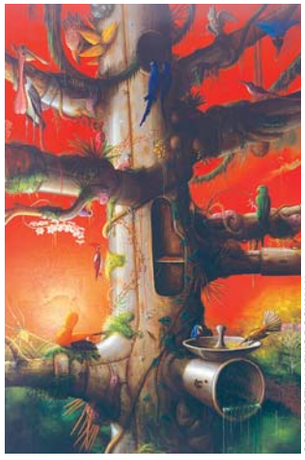

COURTESY ALEXIS ROCKMAN

STRANGE BIRDS: Contemporary artist Alexis Rockwell deals with climate change, deforestation and genetic engineering in his weird, fact-based fantastical paintings. See 47 of his works in "Alexis Rockman: A Fable for Tomorrow," now running at the Smithsonian's American Art Museum.

crafts created in World War II Japanese internment camps, through Jan. 30. 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, Americanart.si.edu.

S. Dillon Ripley Center: "Southern Identity: Contemporary Argentine Art," a bilingual exhibition of artistic trends, through Jan. 23. "The Healing Power of Art: Works of Art by Haitian Children After the Earthquake," children express their feelings about the earthquake through art, through Jan. 9. 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-633-1000, Si.edu/ripley.

Smithsonian American Art Museum: "Alexis Rockman: A Fable for Tomorrow," the contemporary artist uses vivid imagery to display his concern about the world's ecosystems, through May 8; "John Gossage: The Pond," between 1981 and 1985, John Gossage traveled the Washington suburbs with his camera to focus on a pocket of wild, untouched nature and published the book "The Pond." The exhibit is the first time all 53 gelatin silver prints will be on display, through Jan. 17; "Telling Stories: Norman Rockwell From the Collections of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg," Rockwell paintings collected by the two filmmakers, through Jan. 2; "Watch This! New Directions in the Art of the Moving Image," a permanent collection documenting contemporary art's use of video opens Friday, ongoing. Eighth and F streets NW; 202-633-1000, Americanart.si.edu.

Susan Calloway Fine Arts: "Points of View: Contemporary Takes on the Landscape" is six artists' approaches to landscape painting, through Dec. 31. 1643 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-965-4601, Callowayart.com.

Textile Museum: "Colors of the Oasis: Central Asian Ikats," a look at the museum's collection of ikats, clothing from central Asia, through March 13. 2320 S St. NW; 202-667-0441, Textilemuseum.org.

U.S. Botanic Garden: "Seasons Greenings," a celebration of how people use plants in holiday traditions, through Jan. 2. 100 Maryland Ave. SW; 202-225-8333, Usbg.gov.

Woodrow Wilson House: "The Art of First Lady Ellen Axson Wilson: American Impressionist," a selection of 18 paintings by the former first lady, through April 10. 2340 S St. NW; 202-387-4062, Woodrowwilsonhouse.org.

Zenith Gallery: "Universe," paintings by Anne Marchand and sculptures by Craig Schaffer, through Jan. 28. 1111 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-783-2963.

stage

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A Christmas Carol: Michael Baron directs Michael Wilson's adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale of Scrooge

Continued on page E17

"RUN - DO NOT WALK TO SEE THIS PLAY!" – Today Show
"THOUGHTFUL AND VIBRANT." – New York Post
"SPECTACULAR." – New York Observer
"ENGROSSING AND MOVING." – New York Times
"VITAL AND RADIANT." – Variety
"STUNNING." – Back Stage
"ASTONISHING." – Associated Press

Photo of Anna Deavere Smith by Mary Ellen Mark.

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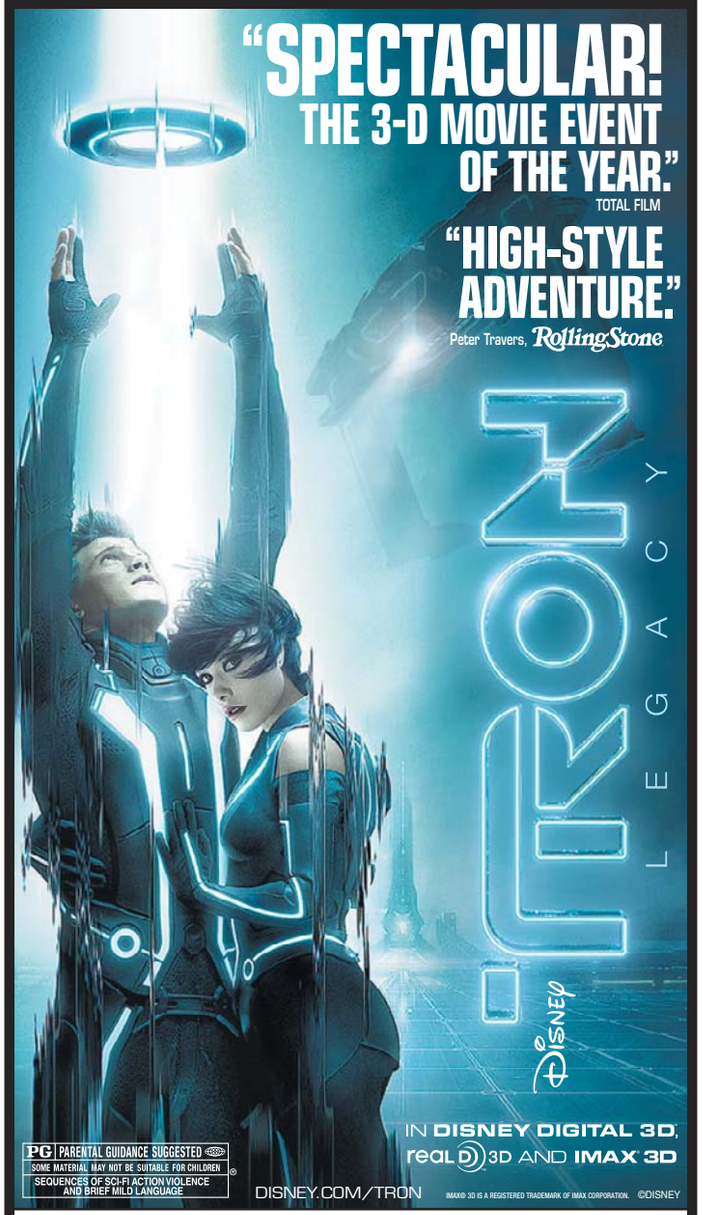

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Continued from page E15

and the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future, through Jan. 2, $30-$67. Ford's Theatre, 511 10th St. NW; 202-347-4833, Fordstheatre.org.

A Girl's Guide to Washington Politics: Chicago's Second City returns with a humorous take on prominent female politicians, through Jan. 9, $15-$75. Woolly Mammoth Theatre, 641 D St. NW; 202-393-3939, Woollymammoth.net.

A Wrinkle in Time: Meg, her brother, a friend, the eccentric Mrs. Whatsit and her friends travel to a faraway planet to rescue Meg's father, through Dec. 26., $25-$60. Round House Theatre, 4545

Continued on page E20

Get Your Mojo Workin'

SCOTT SUCHMAN

MUSIC AND MAYHEM: The black comedy "Mojo," — a gangster story that takes place in one day in a nightclub run by somewhat seedy characters — now playing at the Studio Theatre's 2nd Stage, takes place in London's Soho district in the 1950s, when American music, fashion and pop culture were beginning to storm across the pond.

Local movie times

(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket

DISTRICT

AMC Loews Georgetown 14
3111 K Street N.W. www.AMCTheatres.com

Little Fockers (PG-13) CC-Closed Captions: 12:40-3:20-6:10-9:00
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 11:40-2:20-5:10-7:30-10:05
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 11:50-3:10-6:40-9:50
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 11:25-2:30-5:30-8:30
Black Swan (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 11:20-12:10-2:10-3:00-5:00-6:00-8:00-9:10
The Fighter (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 1:00-4:00-7:10-10:10
The Tourist (PG-13) 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:45
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 11:30-2:50-6:30-10:00
Tron: Legacy (PG) 12:30-3:50-7:20-10:20
Little Fockers (PG-13) 11:00-12:40-1:40-3:20-4:20-6:10-7:00-9:00-9:40
How Do You Know (PG-13) 12:20-3:30-6:20-9:30
True Grit (PG-13) 11:10-2:00-4:50-7:40-10:30
Tangled (PG) 11:15-1:50-4:30-7:50-10:25

AMC Loews Uptown 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W. www.AMCTheatres.com

Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:00-4:10-7:15-10:30

AMC Mazza Gallerie
5300 Wisconsin Ave. NW www.AMCTheatres.com

Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 12:00-2:15-4:40-7:00-9:10
How Do You Know (PG-13) Club Cinema-Over 21: 2:00-4:45-7:40-10:30
The Tourist (PG-13) Club Cinema-Over 21: 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:20
The Fighter (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 2:20-5:10-8:00-10:40
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) 1:50-4:30-7:10-10:00
Little Fockers (PG-13) 12:10-2:30-5:00-7:20-9:50
True Grit (PG-13) 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10

Avalon
5612 Connecticut Avenue www.theavalon.org

How Do You Know (PG-13) (!) 12:30-3:00-5:45-8:30
Casino Jack (R) (!) 12:00-2:40-5:20-8:00

Landmark E Street Cinema
555 11th St. NW www.landmarktheatres.com

Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (R) (!) 1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30-9:30
I Love You Phillip Morris (R) 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-9:55
The King's Speech (R) 12:45-2:15-3:45-5:15-6:45-8:15-9:30
Bhutto (NR) 1:00-5:30-10:00
Black Swan (R) 12:15-1:45-3:00-4:30-5:45-7:15-8:30-9:45
Casino Jack (R) (!) 1:15-4:15-7:00-9:40
127 Hours (R) 3:15-7:45

Regal Gallery Place Stadium 14
707 Seventh Street NW www.regalcinemas.com

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:55-2:25-4:55-7:25-9:50
Little Fockers (PG-13) Digital Projection: (!) 12:30-3:35-6:30-9:30
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:40-1:55-4:30-7:00-9:10
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:30-3:40-7:10-10:20
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:00
How Do You Know (PG-13) OC-Open Caption: 4:00-10:30
The Fighter (R) 11:45-2:30-5:10-8:00-10:40
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:05-3:25-6:40-9:55
The Tourist (PG-13) 1:00-4:10-7:05-9:45
Tron: Legacy (PG) (!) 1:30-4:40-7:50-10:50
Little Fockers (PG-13) (!) 11:20-11:50-2:20-3:00-5:00-5:30-7:30-8:10-10:10-10:50
How Do You Know (PG-13) 12:50-7:20
Love and Other Drugs (R) 12:00-2:45-5:25-8:05-10:45
True Grit (PG-13) (!) 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:40-10:25

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road www.afi.com/silver

Black Swan (R) NO PASSES: (!) 12:45-3:00-5:10-7:20-9:30
127 Hours (R) 1:05-3:05-5:05-7:10-9:15
The Muppet Christmas Carol (G) Holiday Classics: 7:10
It's a Wonderful Life (1946) (G) Holiday Classics: 4:30-9:05

AMC Loews Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Tangled (PG) CC-Closed Captions: 11:40-2:20-5:00-7:30-10:00
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 11:20-2:05-4:45-7:20-10:15
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 11:05-1:50-4:30-7:10-10:05
Tron: Legacy (PG) (!) 10:10-1:00-4:00-7:00-9:50
Little Fockers (PG-13) (!) 11:50-2:35-5:15-7:45-10:20
How Do You Know (PG-13) (!) 10:35-1:20-4:05-6:50-9:35
True Grit (PG-13) (!) 10:50-1:35-4:20-7:15-9:55
Tangled (PG) 11:40-2:20-5:00-7:30-10:00
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 10:15-12:30-2:55-5:30-8:00-10:30

AMC Loews White Flint 5
11301 Rockville Pike www.AMCTheatres.com

Tron: Legacy (PG) 10:05-1:00-4:10-7:15-10:20
Little Fockers (PG-13) 10:45-1:35-4:25-7:00-9:25
Burlesque (PG-13) 10:25-1:15-4:00-6:45-9:45
How Do You Know (PG-13) 11:15-2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35
True Grit (PG-13) 11:00-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:05

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way www.AMCTheatres.com

Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:00-2:30-4:50-7:20-9:40
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:40-1:00-4:00-7:00-10:10
The Tourist (PG-13) CC-Closed Captions: 1:20-3:55-6:30-9:05
The Fighter (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: (!) 11:20-2:00-4:40-7:40-10:20
The Tourist (PG-13) 1:20-3:55-6:30-9:05
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) 1:30-4:05-6:40-9:30
Tron: Legacy (PG) (!) 11:10-2:05-5:00-8:00
Unstoppable (PG-13) 11:45-2:10-4:45-7:15-9:45
Little Fockers (PG-13) (!) 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:55-10:30
How Do You Know (PG-13) (!) 11:00-1:35-4:30-7:30-10:25
True Grit (PG-13) (!) 11:05-1:40-4:30-7:10-10:05
Tangled (PG) 11:30-1:50-4:20-6:50-9:20
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 12:45-3:00-5:20-7:50-10:00

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue www.landmarktheatres.com

Somewhere (R) (!) 11:40-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:30
The Tempest (2010/II) (PG-13) 1:45-7:05
The King's Speech (R) 11:15-12:00-1:00-2:00-3:00-4:00-5:00-6:00-7:00-8:00-8:45-9:45
Inside Job (PG-13) 11:50-2:20-4:55-7:20-9:50
Black Swan (R) 11:45-1:15-2:15-3:45-4:45-6:30-7:30-9:00-10:00
127 Hours (R) 11:30-4:30-9:40

Regal Bethesda 10
7272 Wisconsin Avenue www.regalcinemas.com

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:20-1:40-4:45-7:15-9:40
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:20-1:30-3:50-6:50-9:00
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:15-4:10-6:40-9:20
The Tourist (PG-13) 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:20
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 6:30-9:50
The Fighter (R) 11:30-2:20-5:00-7:50-10:30
Little Fockers (PG-13) (!) 11:20-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:00
How Do You Know (PG-13) 11:00-1:50-4:30-7:20-10:20
True Grit (PG-13) (!) 11:10-2:00-4:40-7:40-10:15
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 12:20-2:30-4:30

Regal Hyattsville Royale Stadium 14
6505 America Blvd.

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:45-4:15-7:05-9:45
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:50-4:20-7:20-9:50
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:40-4:55-7:40-10:25
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 1:05-4:10-7:10-10:15
The Tourist (PG-13) RW/DA: 1:55-4:45-7:45-10:10
The Fighter (R) 1:25-4:40-7:25-10:05
Tron: Legacy (PG) (!) 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Little Fockers (PG-13) (!) 1:10-2:05-4:25-5:05-7:15-7:55-9:55-10:40
How Do You Know (PG-13) 1:35-4:35-7:35-10:35
True Grit (PG-13) (!) 2:00-5:00-7:50-10:20
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 1:20-3:50-6:50-9:20
Black Swan (R) 1:15-3:45-6:45-9:30

Regal Majestic 20
900 Ellsworth Drive

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:10-2:35-5:10-7:35-9:55
Little Fockers (PG-13) Digital Projection: (!) 12:00-2:30-5:15-7:50-10:30
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:30-1:45-3:50-6:00-8:05-10:15
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:40-4:20-6:55-9:50
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 7:05-10:05
Tron Legacy: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) IMAX: (!) 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
The Tourist (PG-13) 1:10-3:40-6:05-8:25-10:45
Unstoppable (PG-13) 8:35-10:50
The Fighter (R) 10:45-12:40-1:30-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:40-10:20
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) 12:30-3:10-5:40
Little Fockers (PG-13) (!) 11:00-11:30-12:50-1:20-2:00-3:45-4:15-4:45-6:10-6:50-7:20-8:40-9:30-10:00-11:00
How Do You Know (PG-13) 12:00-1:25-2:45-4:20-5:30-7:10-8:15-10:10-11:00
True Grit (PG-13) (!) 11:50-12:55-2:20-3:35-5:05-5:55-7:40-8:30-10:25-10:55
Tangled (PG) 11:05-1:35-4:05-6:45-9:10
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 12:05-12:35-2:10-2:40-4:25-4:50-6:40-9:00

VIRGINIA

AMC Courthouse Plaza 8
2150 Clarendon Blvd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 11:15-1:50-4:30-7:00-9:30
Tees Maar Khan (NR) AMC INDEPENDENT: (!) 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:25
Black Swan (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 10:45-1:30-4:00-7:15-10:00
The Fighter (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: (!) 10:00-11:00-12:45-1:45-3:45-4:45-6:45-7:45-9:40-10:30
Due Date (R) 8:00-10:20
How Do You Know (PG-13) (!) 10:30-12:10-1:15-3:15-4:15-6:15-7:30-9:15-10:15
Tangled (PG) 9:50-12:20-3:00-5:30

AMC Hoffman Center 22
206 Swamp Fox Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 11:10-1:55-4:35-7:05-9:35
Unstoppable (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 5:05-7:35-9:55
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:10-1:20-3:35-5:55-8:20-10:30
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:00-2:00-5:00-8:00
Tron Legacy: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) IMAX 3D: (!) 10:00-1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 9:50-12:05-2:35
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 10:40-1:30-4:25-7:15-10:05
Black Swan (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 12:00-2:40-5:20-8:05-10:40
The Fighter (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: (!) 10:35-12:15-1:25-2:55-4:15-5:50-7:10-8:45-10:15
The Tourist (PG-13) 11:15-1:55-4:35-7:25-10:20
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 9:50-11:30-1:05-2:50-4:20-6:10-7:40-9:55
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 11:45-2:50-5:45-8:45
Tron: Legacy (PG) 12:00-3:00-6:00-9:00
Due Date (R) 7:05-9:35
Little Fockers (PG-13) (!) 10:05-11:05-11:50-12:35-1:35-2:20-3:05-4:10-4:55-5:40-6:45-7:30-8:15-9:25-10:10
How Do You Know (PG-13) (!) 10:55-12:30-1:50-3:25-4:45-6:20-7:50-9:15-10:40
True Grit (PG-13) (!) 10:15-11:20-12:55-2:05-3:45-4:50-6:30-7:45-9:20-10:35
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 9:55-12:10-2:25-4:40

Alexandria Old Town Theater
815 1/2 King St http://tickets.oldtowntheater.com/

True Grit (PG-13) (!) 4:30-7:15-10:00
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 5:00-7:30; 5:00-7:30-10:00

Arlington Cinema 'N' Drafthouse
2903 Columbia Pike http://www.arlingtondrafthouse.com/

Jackass 3D (R) 9:50

Regal Ballston Common 12
671 N. Glebe Road www.regalcinemas.com

Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 2:10-4:40-7:00-9:20
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:20-4:10-7:35-10:40
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:30-4:20-7:10-10:20
The Tourist (PG-13) 1:40-4:00-6:50-9:30
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 3:20-6:30-9:40
Tron: Legacy (PG) (!) 2:00-4:50-8:10
The Social Network (PG-13) 5:10-7:55
Love and Other Drugs (R) 2:40-10:35
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 12:40-3:10-5:20-7:40-9:50

Regal Kingstowne 16
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center

Little Fockers (PG-13) Digital Projection: (!) 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:50-10:25
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:30-1:35-3:40-6:00-8:05-10:20
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:00-1:50-4:40-7:35-10:30
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:40-2:20-5:00-7:40-10:15
Tangled (PG) Digital Projection: 11:50-2:25-4:55-7:20-9:45
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 6:50-10:00
The Tourist (PG-13) 11:15-1:40-4:10-6:40-9:10
The Fighter (R) 11:55-2:35-5:15-8:00-10:40
Little Fockers (PG-13) RW/DA: (!) 11:45-2:05-4:30-7:00-9:35
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) 12:35-3:25-6:10-9:00
Tron: Legacy (PG) (!) 12:10-3:00-6:25-9:30
Little Fockers (PG-13) (!) 11:00-1:20-3:45-6:15-8:45
How Do You Know (PG-13) 1:15-4:00-7:05-9:50
True Grit (PG-13) (!) 11:10-1:45-4:20-7:15-9:55
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 11:05-12:20-1:10-2:30-3:15-4:45-5:20-7:25-9:40
Black Swan (R) 11:25-1:55-4:25-6:55-9:25

Regal Potomac Yard 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Highway www.regalcinemas.com

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:00-1:25-4:05-6:50-9:30
Little Fockers (PG-13) Digital Projection: (!) 12:20-3:05-5:35-8:15-10:45
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:40-2:55-5:15-7:25-9:45
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:00-1:45-4:45-7:40-10:45
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:10-1:50-4:25-7:10-9:50
The Tourist (PG-13) OC-Open Caption: 3:10-10:40; 12:30-5:40-8:10
The Fighter (R) 11:20-12:50-2:05-3:45-5:00-6:35-7:50-9:25-10:35
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 6:25-9:40
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Tron: Legacy (PG) (!) 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15
How Do You Know (PG-13) 1:30-4:20-7:15-10:00
Little Fockers (PG-13) (!) 11:15-1:35-2:20-4:10-4:55-6:45-7:30-9:20-10:10
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 12:00-2:15-4:30
True Grit (PG-13) (!) 11:25-1:20-2:00-4:15-5:10-7:00-7:55-9:35-10:30

Tastes, Post-Haste

Oh dear, you've done it again! You put off holiday shopping for so long, Christmas is a couple days away — literally, two. All that's on the shelves now are beer holsters and massage slippers, and you'll never forget the look on your wife's face last year when you gave her the "gift of more time." Keep out of the dog house this year by picking up one of these unique gustatory gifts. These smelly cheeses, blossoming teas, nostalgic sweets, hand-crafted jams and complex winter ales will dare anyone to call your presents last-minute. MARY KONG

Jam On it

FOR: *The best hostess you and your friends could ever ask for — your wife.*

$15 Line the pantry with sets of Copper Pot Food Company's new artisanal jam samplers. Each set includes three 4 oz. jars of hand-crafted jams made from locally cultivated produce. For a flavor punch, the Signature Jam Sampler groups best-selling flavors such as blackberry ginger, strawberry and vanilla bean, and orchard fresh apple. The sweet peach, nectarine and grape-based spreads in the Spirit'ed Jams Sampler get a kick from bellini, bourbon and grappa, respectively. And the Cheese Accoutrements sampler set is a texturized complement to any cheese with white fig and balsamic, red beet and rhubarb, and quince cinnamon jams.

WHERE AND WHEN TO PICK UP:
>> *Dupont Circle Market, 1500 20th St. NW; Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*
>> *Penn Quarter Farmer's Market, D and 8th streets NW; Thursdays, 3-7 p.m.*
>> *Cowgirl Creamery, 919 F St. NW; 202-393-6880. Open Christmas Eve.*
>> *Red Truck Bakery, 22 Waterloo St., Old Town Warrenton, Va.; 540-347-2224. Open Christmas Eve.*

Tea Time

FOR: *Your son who just returned from a year in London — with a British accent.*

$15 Flowering Teas from Ping Pong Dim Sum are the perfect conversation starter for Anglophiles and tea aficionados. Made from the finest organic teas, these rare, hand-tied buds open up in hot water to reveal a blooming flower. A box of nine green tea buds includes red amaranth, osmanthus, jasmine and lily, dragon eye, and jasmine pearls.

WHERE: *Ping Pong Dim Sum, 900 7th St. NW; 202-506-3740.*

PICK UP: *Open Christmas Eve, closed Christmas Day.*

Snack Back

FOR: *Your grown-up brothers, sisters, cousins and friends.*

PRICES VARY Put on your favorite CD, pretend it's a mixtape and bring back childhood memories over a plate of fresh baked goods from Ted's Bulletin. Twinkies, Snoballs, Oatmeal Crème Pies, Pop Tarts and other perennial kiddie favorites recall the days when you were the gift-getter and that three-page Christmas list was all about you.

WHERE: *Ted's Bulletin, 505 8th St SE; 202-544-8337.*

PICK UP: *Act now. Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.*

Smell Bads

FOR: *Your daughter who just turned 18 and inherited your wife's stunning looks.*

$50 No need to be a shotgun dad, give her the gift of solitude with the Stinky Cheese Basket from Cork Market & Tasting Room. Brimming with the world's most prized yet pungent cheeses, the basket includes local options such as Grayson, a Virginia raw cow's milk cheese, and Cowgirl Creamery's Red Hawk, made with organic milk produce at by the creamery. The basket may also include Taleggio, a pungent cow's milk cheese from Italy and Napoleon's favorite — Époisses de Bourgogne (below) — which is so offensive, it's been banned from French public transport.

WHERE: *Cork Market & Tasting Room, 1805 14th St. NW; 202-265-2674.*

PICK UP: *Open Christmas Eve, closed Christmas Day.*

Custom Suds

FOR: *Your non-homebrewing, beer-loving husband.*

PRICES VARY Greg Engert, beer director of Neighborhood Restaurant Group, hand picked some of the finest, most complex winter beers as a "liquid present to fans." Seasonal six-packs ($25) include Schlafly Christmas Ale, Mahr's Christmas Bock and Oppigårds Winter Ale. Or, gift-hunters can choose from two sets of three-packs in large format bottles ($40). Maybe you should have picked up that beer holster after all.

WHERE: *Planet Wine, 2000 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria; 703-549-3444.*

PICK UP: *Open Christmas Eve, closed Christmas Day*

dining | Weekend Pass

Chaat & Chew

Merzi offers Indian-inspired dishes for diners seeking a quick, casual bite

New Spot

Merzi means "choice" in Urdu, and there are plenty of them at this newly opened Penn Quarter joint.

Diners start with their choice of four base dishes: a naan roll (a soft white flatbread), chaat (a mix of spiced veggies, including onions, peppers, corn and garbanzo beans, as well as a splash of yogurt), a leafy green salad, or a rice bowl. Customers then toss in grilled chicken, braised beef, grilled shrimp, seared lamb or spiced veggies. The restaurant's specialty is the tender Tandisserie chicken, which is rotisserie-cooked whole chicken rubbed with tandoori spices such as cumin and coriander.

The customized creations are finished off with one of three warm sauces — a hot onion-and-tomato-based masala, a medium, creamy tikka masala and a mild, buttery makhani. Diners can also choose from a trio of chutneys: a sweet tamarind and date, a mint-infused green chili, and a spicy red chili.

Complement your main dish with a vegetable samosa or some potato tikka — circular, deep-fried potato patties filled with paneer (a creamy Indian cheese). Make sure to ask for extra sauce or chutney to dip them in, since they could use the extra kick.

PHOTOS: NEVIN MARTELL

Above: Tikka masala sauce flavors some potato tikka and a vegetable samosa. Middle: Grilled shrimp top a chaat base. Top: An order of side dish potato tikka.

To wash it all down, glup a Boylan's soda or fountain drink. The Mango Fantango, Merzi's milk-based version of a traditional Indian yogurt lassi, lacks a flavorful punch, though it's nonetheless good at dulling the pain brought on by hot chutney overindulgence.

If this do-it-yourself menu approach sounds vaguely familiar, it's because Merzi is modeled after another fast food sensation: Merzi wants to do for Indian what Chipotle did for Mexican. Unfortunately, there's nothing on this menu that can compare to Chipotle's monster burritos just yet.

It's nice that diners have a new choice that expands the palette's horizons.

Nonetheless, this subcontinent-inspired upstart could be a boon for fledgling food aficianados unfamiliar with Indian fare, introducing the uninitiated to the flavors of Mumbai without overpowering them with super spicy curries or rich, ghee-heavy dishes.

And considering the number of existing uninteresting fast food options, it's nice that diners have a new choice that expands the palate's horizons. NEVIN MARTELL

● *Merzi. 415 7th St. NW; 202-656-3794, Merzi.com.*

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FRI 24 US DEPT OF BHANGRA INDIAN DANCE MUSIC NIGHT W/ SAADAT AWAN $7
SAT 25 THE MOUSETRAP CHRISTMAS EDITION! DJS MARK ZIMIN & STEREOFAITH $10 LAST MOUSETRAP EVER!!!
SAT 25 2ND ANNUAL JAMES BROWN DEATHMAS HOLIDAY BASH W/ SOUL CALL PAUL $6
SUN 26 THE FORMS JAGUAR SHARK $8
MON 27 COUCH NIGHT $FREE
TUE 28 COUCH NIGHT $FREE
WED 29 COBRA COLLECTIVE TRIGGERS THE THIRD PROGRAMME $8
THU 30 MN8 PRESENTS: PETE ROCK & CL SMOOTH $22/$25
FRI 31 BLACK CAT NEW YEARS EVE BALL W/ PEACHES O'DELL & HER ORCHESTRA plus TONY ANTHONY & HIS MALVIVANTS, DJ DREDD & GRAP LUVA $25 DOORS AT 8:00
SAT 1 HOMO/SONIC: AN ALTERNATIVE DANCE NIGHT FOR QUEER FOLKS & THEIR FRIENDS $10
SAT 1 RAZZMATAZZ: BRITPOP, ALTERNATIVE, INDIE & POSTPUNK DANCE NIGHT $5
SUN 2 DRINK & A MOVIE: DRINK AWAY THE SHAME, BEST WORST MOVIES DOUBLE FEATURE W/ $3 SHOTS OF SHAME $FREE
MON 3 DRINK & A MOVIE : NIGHT OF THE 36 CHAMBERS: A KUNG FU DOUBLE FEATURE w/ $3 GRASSHOPPERS $FREE

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28 1964: THE TRIBUTE
29 SOUTHSIDE JOHNNY & The Asbury Jukes Britt Neal
30 RIDERS IN THE SKY
31 New Years Eve with THE SELDOM SCENE! 8pm with The Eastman String Band & Nora Jane Struthers
Jan. 2 An Evening with B.B. KING DARYL DAVIS
7&8 RICKY SKAGGS & KENTUCKY THUNDER
11 Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
13 JEFFREY OSBORNE
14,15,16 eddie from ohio
17 MOTHER'S FINEST
18,19 An Acoustic Evening with Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt
21 CHELY WRIGHT with Deep River
28 CHARLES ROSS' ONE MAN STAR WARS TRILOGY
29 Suzanne Westenhoefer
30 The Angela Bofill Experience narrated by ANGELA BOFILL performed by MAYSA, Grammy winner DAVE VALENTIN & The Original ANGELA BOFILL BAND
Feb 3 An Evening of Music & Words Rosanne Cash, John Wesley Harding, Kristin Hersh
5 Walter Beasley
8 Jake Shimabukuro
10 An Evening with WAR
11 Lizz Wright
12 David Bromberg Big Band
13 the church 'Future Past Perfect US Tour 2011' Three Decades of the church in 3 Classic Albums 'Untitled #23, Priest=Aura, & Starfish' all performed in their entirety in one night!
14 Burlesque-A-Pades!
16 Herb Alpert & Lani Hall
17 CELTIC CROSSROADS As seen on PBS!
18 CD Release Show! Tom Principato Band Bill Kirchen & The Hammer of the Honky Tonk Gods
19&20 The Bacon Brothers
21 The Robert Cray Band
23 Keola & Moana Beamer
24 JAMES HUNTER with sp. guests LOS STRAITJACKETS
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DECEMBER 23–JANUARY 5

23 THU ★ Encore Chorale
Musicians over the age of 55 perform crowd-pleasing holiday music.

PERFORMANCE AT 12 P.M.

24 FRI ★ Beltway Brass Quintet
Led by Zack Smith, the group plays jazzy and jaunty arrangements of holiday favorites.

25 SAT ★ All-Star Christmas Day Jazz Jam
Celebrate this festive Millennium Stage tradition—now in its 12th year—with host and vibraphonist Chuck Redd, pianist Robert Redd, drummer Lenny Robinson, trumpeter Tom Williams, bassist James King, and vocalist Delores Williams.

26 & 27 SUN & MON ★ Holiday Vaudeville: Sean Grissom, the Alexandria Kleztet, and Mark Hayward
Cajun cellist Sean Grissom hosts two evenings of holiday vaudeville.

ALL PERFORMERS AND PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

28 TUE ★ Bruce Molsky
Multi-instrumentalist blends traditional American old-time music, Appalachian soul, Delta blues, and more.

29 WED ★ Washington's Camerata
Dedicated to the performance of early music, the group brings rarely heard music to life.

IN THE CONCERT HALL

30 THU ★ Weston Jennings
The organist plays a concert on the Center's Filene Organ.

31 FRI ★ Lily Neill
The harp player combines traditional Celtic and Nordic music, eclectic tastes, and classical piano training to expand the voice of the harp.

See the full schedule on your smartphone—**just scan the tag!**
Get the free mobile app at **http://gettag.mobi**

1 SAT ★ The Grandsons
An eclectic blend of New Orleans R&B, rockabilly, swing, and country two-step.

2 SUN ★ Maggie Sansone's Wind Drift
One of America's premier hammered dulcimer players performs Celtic grooves and mystic moods with Al Petteway and other DC-area favorite musicians.

3 MON ★ Lower Dens
Indie rock featuring swarming guitar fuzz, bass waves, insistent drum throbs, and Jana Hunter's redolent, charred voice.

4 TUE ★ Project Natale
A traditional jazz quartet created by Joseph Natale (bass) and his brother Lou (drums) with Carl Cornwell (tenor saxophone) and Bob Butta (piano).

5 WED ★ Secret Society
Jazz composer Darcy James Argue is the ringleader of his 18-piece, cutting-edge "steampunk" ensemble.

FRI 31 ★ LILY NEILL

SUN & MON 26 & 27 ★ HOLIDAY VAUDEVILLE

SAT 1 ★ THE GRANDSONS

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Live Internet broadcast, video archive, artist information, and more at **kennedy-center.org/millennium**

For more information call:
(202) 467-4600
(202) 416-8524 TTY

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PLEASE NOTE: There is no free parking for free performances.

The Kennedy Center welcomes persons with disabilities.

The Kennedy Center

Weekend Pass

Some Enchanted Evening

PETER COOMBS

IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN BALI HAI: Can't escape to the actual tropics? Lift the post-Christmas blues with "South Pacific" at the Kennedy Center, where palm trees and valuable lessons about how racism is bad will cheer you up.

Continued from page E17

East West Hwy., Bethesda; 240-644-1100, Roundhousetheatre.org.

Annie: A plucky redheaded orphan and her bald billionaire protector host an expansive, confident production of this evergreen musical, through Jan. 9, $26-$54. Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney; 301-924-3400, Olneytheatre.org.

Black Nativity: Langston Hughes' classic show has become a holiday traditioin, and it can be seen through Jan. 2. H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE; 202-396-2125, Hstreetplayhouse.com.

Every Tongue Confess: The world premiere of Marcus Gardley's folkloric exploration of hate crimes in the South, through Jan. 2, $70-$110. Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW; 202-488-3300, Arenastage.org.

LAST CHANCE **Holiday Mayhem:** Keep your holiday spirits high without overdosing on saccharine seasonal songs at the Signature Theatre's annual winter cabaret. Emcees and mischief-makers Evan Casey and James Gardiner oversee four evenings of off-kilter holiday satire and songs with a twist, performed by local vocalists including Michael Barry, Emily Levey, Priscilla Cuellar and others at 8:30 p.m. each night, through Thu., $40.60. Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-820-9771, 703-573-7328, Signature-theatre.org.

SUNDAY ONLY **Holiday Vaudeville:** Cajun cellist Sean Grissom hosts two evenings of holiday vaudeville featuring modern-Klezmer quartet the Alexandria Kleztet and comedian, juggler, and yo-yo performer Mark Hayward, 6 p.m., free. Kennedy Center, 2700 F. St. NW; 202-467-4600.

Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!: Junie B. picks the bully May's name for secret Santa. Will May get a lump of coal, or will Junie B. find her holiday spirit? Adapted from the book series by Barbara Park, through Jan. 9, $10-$22. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda; 301-280-1660, Imaginationstage.org.

LAST CHANCE **Maryland Youth Ballet:** The dance company performs, opens Fri., through Dec. 27, $15-$30. Montgomery College, Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville; 240-567-5301, Montgomerycollege.edu/pac.

LAST CHANCE **Mojo:** Set in the 1950s, rock 'n' roll meets London's darker side at the Atlantic Club, through Dec. 26, $30-$35. Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-

Continued on page E23

NIGHTCLUB 9:30 815 V ST NW DC

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w/ David Bazan and Band
FEBRUARY 13

DECEMBER

THE ROOTS ..... M 27
GWAR w/ The Casualties • Infernaeon • Mobile Death Camp ..... W 29

JANUARY

Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue w/ The Bridge ..... Sa 1
The Dance Party w/ Wallpaper • K-Flay • Ra Ra Rasputin • lowercaseletters ..... F 7
Bach2Rock *Matinee Show! 11am Doors* ..... Sa 8
The Pietasters w/ HR • Copstabber • The Shifters ..... Sa 8
Justin Jones and The Driving Rain
w/ Jason Isbell and The 400 Unit • American Aquarium ..... F 14
Virginia Coalition *Early Show! 6pm Doors* ..... Sa 15
BLOWOFF featuring the DJ SOUNDS of **BOB MOULD & RICHARD MOREL** *21+ to enter* ..... Sa 15
the B-52's ..... W 19
Tokyo Police Club & Two Door Cinema Club
w/ Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin ..... Th 20
Yo La Tengo w/ William Tyler ..... F 21
Dr. Dog w/ The Head and The Heart *Reduced-price two-night tickets available.* ..... F 28 & Sa 29
Bach2Rock *Matinee Show! 12 Noon Doors* ..... Sa 29 & Su 30
Lissie w/ Dylan LeBlanc ..... Su 30
mtvU FRESHMAN FIVE AND SPIN Present
Best Coast & Wavves w/ No Joy ..... M 31

FEBRUARY

Tea Leaf Green ..... F 4
Chromeo w/ MNDR & The Suzan ..... Sa 5
Deerhoof w/ Chain and the Gang • Ben Butler and Mousepad • Nervous Cop ..... M 7
Cowboy Mouth ..... Tu 8
Gang of Four w/ Hollerado ..... W 9
Morcheeba ..... Th 10
Lotus w/ Daedelus (F 11 - & Mr. Lif) ..... F 11 & Sa 12
Josh Ritter w/ Scott Hutchison (Frightened Rabbit) ..... M 14
Joshua Radin w/ Justin Nozuka & Andrew Allen *Early Show! 5pm Doors* ..... Tu 15
Yann Tiersen *Late Show! 10pm Doors* ..... Tu 15
Slightly Stoopid w/ Fishbone ..... W 16 & Th 17
Drive-By Truckers ..... F 18 & Sa 19

MARCH

Pete Yorn w/ Ben Kweller & The Wellspring ..... M 14
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Continued from page E20

332-3300, Studiotheatre.org.

Oklahoma!: A play about plain folks on a small patch of earth being absorbed into a universe of bigger ideas and ambitions, through Dec. 30, $45-$105. Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW; 202-488-3300, Arenastage.org.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The theater presents the live stage show based on the children's stop-motion television classic of the same title, through Dec. 31, $15. Glen Echo Park, Adventure Theatre, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo; 301-634-2270, Adventuretheatre.org.

Seasonal Disorder: Improv presented by the Washington Improv Theater, through Dec. 31, $12. Source, 1835 14th St. NW; 202-204-7800, Sourcedc.org.

South Pacific: Lincoln Center Theater presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical about love and war during World War II, through Jan. 16, $39-$150. Kennedy Center, Opera House, 2700 F St. NW; 202-467-4600, 800-444-1324, Kennedy-center.org.

Sunset Boulevard: Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical focuses on the old glamour of Hollywood and a romantic tragedy, through Feb. 13, $59-$85. Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-820-9771, 703-573-7328, Signature-theatre.org.

Superior Donuts: Actor Richard Cotovsky is more than just believable as Arthur Przybyszewski, proprietor of the titular establishment and authoritative relic of a bygone era in Tracey Letts' hit-and-miss Chicago comedy, through Jan. 2, $44-$65. Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-332-3300, Studiotheatre.org.

The Kinsey Sicks in Oy Vey In A Manger: The San Francisco-based drag quartet perform their irreverent show, opens Sat. through Jan. 2, $35-$60. Theater J, 1529 16th St. NW; 800-494-8497, Theaterj.org.

The Mousetrap: Agatha Christie's murder mystery is presented, through Jan. 9, $25-$50, $15-$50 students. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean, Va.; 800-838-3006, 1ststagespringhill.org.

LAST CHANCE The Nutcracker: The Washington Ballet presents a D.C.-themed version of the classic, through Sun., $31-$89. Warner Theatre, 13th and E streets NW; 202-783-4000, Warnertheatre.com.

LAST CHANCE Walter Cronkite Is Dead: Two strangers strike up a conversation at Reagan National Airport on a stormy day when operations have come to a halt. Maybe in a time as politically fractious as this, the mere idea of two women sitting and absorbing viewpoints they normally wouldn't abide counts as revolutionary, through Sun., $50-$76. Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-820-9771, 703-573-7328, Signature-theatre.org.

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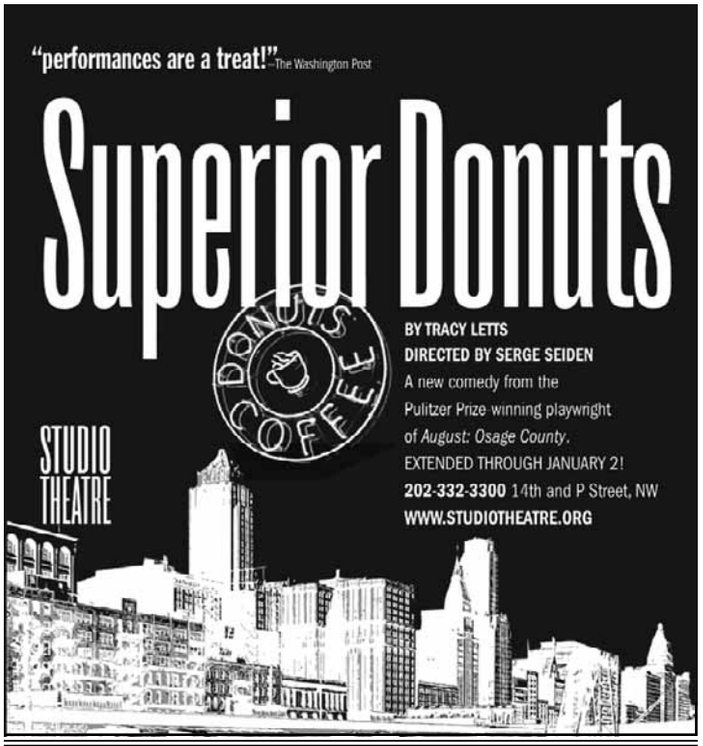

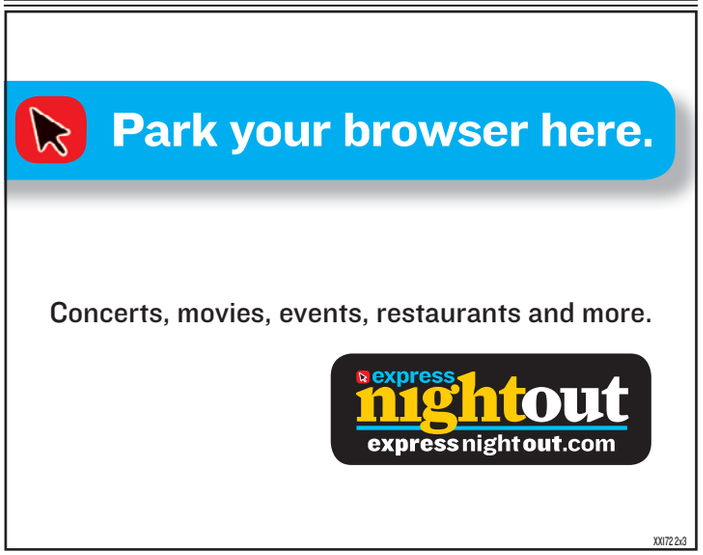

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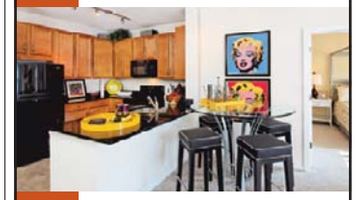

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How Random!

Every year-end TV list is the same! "Modern Family," "Good Wife," blah, blah, blah. I offer instead "Random TV Honors (and Disses)." Here's Part I. Stay tuned for next week's finale.

Letdown of the Year: "True Blood." When the producer boasts how cool the 2011 cycle will be, you know even he knows that the promising 2010 season disintegrated into dust like a vampire in the sun.

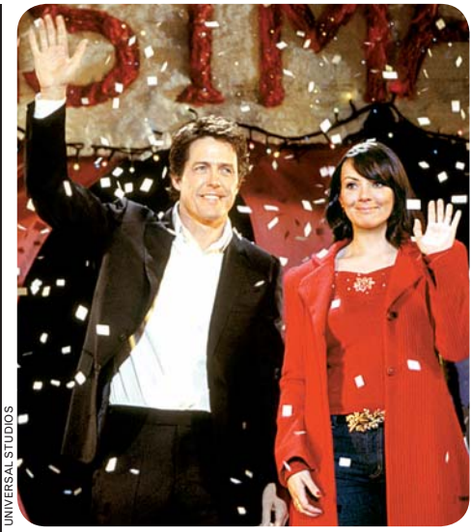
By Marc Silver

Evisceration of the Year: "True Blood." Denis O'Hare as a vampire king, above, literally ripped the spine out of a TV news anchorman. By comparison, CBS's evisceration of its "Early Show" was nothin'. The hosts got to keep their spines (though not their jobs).

(Misused) Word of the Year: Literally. Attention, reality show stars: It doesn't mean "as if." It means "in the literal or strict sense." Special prize for best misusage goes to stylist Rachel Zoe: "We literally are going to need to pull dresses out of our asses."

Comeback of the Year: "The Office." How lame had it become? I was watching reruns of "House Hunters International" on Thursdays at 9 p.m. Then Amy Ryan returned as Holly, Michael's once and perhaps future love, and suddenly the show was as bleak and deadpan and endearing as ever.

@ Comments? Give Marc your feedback: **expressnightout.com/muse**



UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

TO WATCH

"Love Actually" (DVD, $13)

With its many overlapping tales of love and lust, "Love Actually" is the 2004 DVD gift that keeps on giving. Year after year, we find plenty to love in this little gem of a holiday chick flick: Bill Nighy's atrocious anthem "Christmas Is All Around Us"! Hugh Grant as a charmingly awkward prime minister! The endearingly innocent nude body doubles! Laura Linney's hookup with the Hot Guy! Thomas Sangster's quest to bestow a kiss upon his young love before she flies to the States! Colin Firth's lost-in-translation flirtation with his housekeeper! Sometimes the love stories veer into the creepy and uncomfortable (including those of cheating Alan Rickman, and Keira Knightley's stalker-ish admirer), but for the most part things turn out well. **K.A.**

PEACE, LOVE & PERSPECTIVE

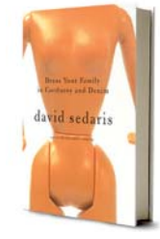
HOLIDAY 2010

Have you ever noticed that "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "It's a Wonderful Life" are two of the most horrendously depressing movies ever made? It is a new world, children, and in that new world we choose our own Christmas classics, and they do not include stories of abject misery (Ahem, Frank Capra). Here are our suggestions for the new Christmas classics, the entertainment traditions to instill in your children now, before they start to believe that saccharine suck-up Tiny Tim is an acceptable role model. **KATIE ABERBACH, SHAUNA MILLER AND FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)**

TO READ

"Six to Eight Black Men" BY DAVID SEDARIS

Clement Clarke Moore may have satisfied generations, but Christmas Eve reading for young people now is more likely to include a couple of David Sedaris' essays. While his "The Santaland Diaries," about his days working as a Macy's elf, may be more famous, it's "Six to Eight Black Men" (available online through Esquire.com, and in Sedaris' book "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim") that remains the most hilarious. The title refers to holiday traditions in the Netherlands, in which a gaunt St. Nicholas comes from Spain with an indeterminate number of helpers and kicks naughty children. But the essay really tackles the Santa Claus myth and points out how ridiculous — er, magical, we mean magical — it really is, no matter where in the world you live. **F.Z.**



TO LISTEN

"Christmas With the Chipmunks" (ALBUM & MP3, $12)

Much like a chipmunk, the relationship between David Seville and his young charges Alvin, Simon and Theodore has always been fuzzy. Part adoptive dad and part Kim Fowley rage-cage manager, Dave is pretty much a one-man Party of No — even at Christmas, as evidenced on the 1962 smash record "Christmas With the Chipmunks." On 12 ear-splitting holiday tracks, Alvin makes desperate bids for attention, Theodore eats his feelings and Simon tries to just remain invisible, all while Dave bellows at them for being off-key, giggling or a million other childish infractions. The abuse subtext reaches its crescendo on "Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)," which finds the boys pleading with time itself to hurry forward that they may escape their cruel reality for just one special day with a precious hula hoop. Not that Dave would get them one, even to share between them. No, he'll just bully them into laying down Take 117 ... "I DON'T CARE THAT IT'S CHRISTMAS! AAALLLLVIIIINNN!" **S.M.**

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Which pair will win $2,000 in the Gold's Gym Get Fit Challenge?

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- Each pair's individual page to show your support

express

TV tonight lookout

The Mean, Green One

Two Grinch specials portray Dr. Seuss' prickly holiday hater

Programming Roundup

THU 8:00

'Tis the night before the night before Christmas, so the cornucopia of holiday movies, specials, episodes and documentaries has almost been emptied. Among the dwindling number of holiday favorites are the cartoon fantasy "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" (ABC), the heartwarming Whoville evergreen featuring narration by Boris Karloff. It's sobering to ponder that we are now much further removed in time from the 1966 debut of this holiday favorite than it was from Karloff's signature 1931 movie "Frankenstein."

Not content to leave a classic untouched, director Ron Howard teamed up with star Jim Carrey in 2000 to create a live-action " How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (8:30 p.m., ABC). Critics feasted on the spectacle as if on roast beast.

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Christmas is unpredictable for Taylor Momsen and Jim Carrey in 200's "Grinch."

Other holiday offerings include "The Santa Clause" (6:30 p.m., Family) from 1994, starring Tim Allen. He returned to the franchise in 2006 with "The Santa Clause 3" (8 p.m., Disney).

"Christmas Unwrapped" (8 p.m. Discovery) offers the intellectual fare of the night, with a history of Christmas traditions and how they have evolved over the centuries.

A repeat from 2009 "Jeff Dunham's Very Special Christmas Special" (8 p.m., and 10 p.m., Comedy Central) features holiday gags from his favorite "dummies" Walter, Achmed, Bubba J and Peanut, as well as a glance back at some favorite bits from his series.

KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

Best Bets

THU 10:00

The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills (BRAVO) Lisa holds a charity event at her restaurant, Villa Blanca, while Camille continues to deal with the fallout between herself and Kyle. Taylor, right, throws a Roaring '20s party.

THU 10:00

L.A. Gang Wars: The Peacemaker (A&E) In Inglewood, Calif., two brothers named G-Luv and Squeak Ru have been on opposing sides of bitter warfare. As hostilities rise in the wake of the slaying of one of G-Luv's friends, it's Malik tries to arrange a high-stakes mediation.

SAT 8:00

Community (NBC) When Abed wakes up as a stop-motion animation character, he takes it as a sign that he and the group must rediscover the meaning of Christmas and sets out to teach them.

SAT 8:30

30 Rock (NBC) Liz (Tina Fey, left) and Avery persuade Jack to confess some things he has been keeping from his mother (guest star Elaine Stritch) when she visits for Christmas. Liz tries to fix Jenna's odd relationship with Paul (guest star Will Forte), while Tracy buys the rights to a compromising film he once shot. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

Marathon

Get Your Annual Ralphie Parker Fix

"You'll shoot your eye out!" Peter Billingsley stars in the 1983 comedy "A Christmas Story," airing nonstop for 24 hours on TBS between 8 p.m. Friday and 8 p.m. Saturday. Not just a Christmas story, it's about parents, little brothers, bullies, decoder rings, double dog dares and most of all, the workings of a youthful mind. (T.M.)

Need a laugh?

You'll find these cartoons, plus an archive of recent funnies on our online comics page.

- Bizarro
- Bound and Gagged
- Candorville
- Cornered
- Cul de Sac
- Lio
- New Adventures of Queen Victoria
- Non Sequitur
- Pearls Before Swine
- Pooch Cafe
- The Argyle Sweater
- The Duplex

Visit us at expressnightout.com/comics

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lookout online

Poll Center

Today's Question

WOULD IT OFFEND YOU IF A STRANGER WISHED YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS?

VOTE AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM OR TEXT A FOR YES OR B FOR NO TO 98999

Yesterday's Results

DO YOU THINK THE FCC HAS THE RIGHT TO REGULATE INTERNET ACCESS?

"Yes, I think FCC has the right. Unfortunately, right now FCC is a solution looking for a problem." **COMMENTER BRAD2**

"There are so many loopholes in this toothless legislation, the communications companies are partying." **COMMENTER WTF**

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT **WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM**

"Now that 'don't ask, don't tell' is ... repealed, conservatives are going back to their silly old defense that gay men and straight men can't possibly be naked together without everyone being turned into pillars of salt and the moon exploding or something."

— **GAWKER.COM** THINKS A CNS REPORTER GOT SERVED WHEN HE QUESTIONED REP. BARNEY FRANK (D-MASS.) ABOUT SOLDIERS' CLOSE QUARTERS IN A POST-"DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" MILITARY.

"I feel a bit gloriously rebellious each time I say the words 'Merry Christmas' to someone else. And you know what? Almost every time I say it, the person I said it to says it to me in turn, indicating they weren't in the least bit offended."

— **SISTATOLDJAH.COM** WEIGHS IN ON NPR JOURNALIST NINA TOTENBERG'S CONTROVERSIAL COMMENT ON "INSIDE WASHINGTON" THIS WEEKEND: "I WAS AT – FORGIVE THE EXPRESSION – A CHRISTMAS PARTY."

Blog Log

"Leave the adrenaline-inducing action stuff to Hollywood where they have all the advanced technological trickery to pull these stunts off successfully, and start concentrating on fundamentals like a solid story, interesting script, good set design and great actors — the ticket holders will appreciate it and it will be much less embarrassing for everyone."

– A COMMENTER AT **ARTSBEAT.BLOGS.NYTIMES.COM** REACTS TO YET ANOTHER INJURY DURING A PREVIEW PERFORMANCE OF THE BROADWAY MUSICAL "SPIDER-MAN: TURN OFF THE DARK"

Did something terrible happen that you can't get out of your mind?

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- Is it hard to trust or love other people?
- Have you lost interest in activities you once enjoyed?
- Have you started to drink too much alcohol?

People between the ages of 21 and 50 who have the above symptoms may qualify for a five week inpatient research study looking at the effects of a new drug for individuals with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and alcoholism. There is no cost for taking part and people will be compensated for their participation. For further information about this study being conducted at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD, call 301-496-1993. TTY: 866-411-1010 www.cc.nih.gov

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puzzles lookout

Horoscope

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The opportunity you give another is an opportunity you give yourself as well. Both parties will benefit in ways you haven't anticipated.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) It'll be up to you to arm yourself with the tools you need to get the job done. Don't expect anyone else to come through for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may have been put in a situation in which your own experience and knowledge are not enough — yet. Play it by ear.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You're likely to be invited to join those who are attempting the impossible at this time. You can offer much to turn things around.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The timeline is more important than usual, as everything must occur in the right order for the outcome you desire.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You may be experiencing uneasiness now that someone you haven't known for long is part of a current project. Why this mistrust?

CANCER (June 21-July 22) The first time you look for something you're not likely to uncover it, but it may turn up when you look in the least likely place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Be gracious, warm and welcoming to those who are new on the scene — and do what you can to bring them up to speed as soon as possible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You'll need an important piece of information from someone who is on his or her way out, and if you ask for it too late, you won't get it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You can hold someone else's hand only so long; the time will come very soon when you must let go and trust that he or she can go it alone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) That which comes easy to you may not be the best choice of endeavor; indeed, that which you have to work to perfect pays off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You may take it right down to the wire before finally scoring the victory you've been seeking. Your fans are ready to celebrate.

PostPoints DAILY CODE R I

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 140-150, BEST SCORE 217

								RACK 1
E1	O1	K5	H4	L1	M3	C3	Double Word Score	
								RACK 2
E1	O1	S1	S1	T1	L1	P3		
								RACK 3
E1	O1	U1	C3	S1	L1	G2	3rd Letter Triple	
								RACK 4
E1	O1	U1	S1	L1	K5	R1		

Yesterday's Solution

S1	U1	M3	M3	O1	N1		RACK 1 =	10
Z10	I1	N1	G2	I1	E1	R1	RACK 2 =	101
V4	E1	N1	T1	R1	A1	L1	RACK 3 =	61
B3	A1	L1	L1	A1	D2		RACK 4 =	9
PAR SCORE 90-100							TOTAL	181

FOUR RACK TOTAL _____

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

DIFFICULT

1				5		6		
3	6							
		8					3	7
		9	4					
		4	9	8	3	1		
					7	3		
2	7					8		
							1	9
		3		2				6

Yesterday's Solution

6	3	9	1	2	8	5	7	4
8	4	2	6	7	5	3	1	9
1	7	5	9	3	4	6	8	2
2	8	3	7	5	6	4	9	1
5	6	7	4	1	9	8	2	3
4	9	1	3	8	2	7	6	5
9	1	4	8	6	3	2	5	7
7	5	6	2	4	1	9	3	8
3	2	8	5	9	7	1	4	6

Need more Su|do|ku? Find another puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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Comics

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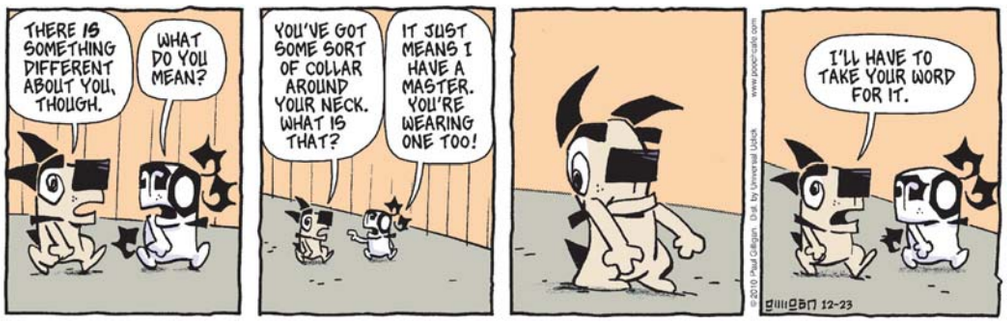
POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS

Forecast

38 | 25

Today: Mostly sunny and breezy today. Clear and windy tonight.

39 | 25

Tomorrow: Partly sunny and breezy tomorrow. Mostly cloudy tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead

SAT	SUN	MON
38 | 25	34 | 24	32 | 22

Sun and Moon
Sunrise today: 7:24 a.m.
Sunset today: 4:50 p.m.
Moonrise today: 7:41 p.m.
Moonset today: 9:08 a.m.

Almanac
Normal high: 45
Record high: 72
Normal low: 31
Record low: 3

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM ©2009

lookout puzzles

Crossword

TIME FOR CHANGE

ACROSS

1 Puncturing device
4 Motley collections
11 Trio in summertime?
14 Hawaiian wreath
15 "OK"
16 Bon ___ (witty remark)
17 Cheap shopping place of old
19 Money player
20 Scatterbrained
21 Highest point
23 Give the cold shoulder to
25 67.5 degrees, in terms of direction
28 Fork element
29 Pacific yellowfin tuna
30 Takes money from illegally
32 Inexact words
33 One-principle- for-everything theory
37 Imperative and subjunctive, e.g.
39 Trivial
43 Kept from squeaking
44 Infamous Hun
46 Mountain pond
49 Head table's place
51 Psychedelic of the '60s
52 Provide with gear
54 "His Master's Voice" initials
55 Traveled by tandem
57 Vatican ambassador
59 Big birds of South America
61 None whatever
62 It may be on the staff
67 U.N. workers agency
68 Act as a forerunner
69 Afghan monetary unit
70 It goes back and forth to work?
71 Bric-a-brac holder
72 Place to serve slop

DOWN

1 Lofty peak
2 Early, as hours
3 Pasta often served with clam sauce
4 Ersatz silk
5 Clerical garments
6 More dismal, as skies
7 "That's show ___!"
8 The ___ Khan
9 Flight of steps to a riverbank
10 Word with "steak" or "search"
11 Buyer, in legalese
12 Half-wits
13 Traffic report adjective
18 Here-there link
22 "To your health!"
23 Ted's "Cheers" role
24 Unit measuring loudness
26 Having no fixed home
27 Lustrous black, poetically
31 Bubbly drink
34 Bigger- than-life, perhaps
35 Do some schussing
36 Pinochle combo
38 Controversial pesticide (Abbr.)
40 Type of jet
41 Weaklings
42 "Will there be anything ___?"
45 Throw in
46 Game of love?
47 Milky Way constellation
48 Be almost out
50 "No Exit" dramatist Jean-Paul
53 Stimulate, as interest
55 Capital city on the Aare
56 James Bond novelist Fleming
58 Get rid of, as a ruler
60 One who's got it coming
63 Exclamation of triumph
64 Medium size (Abbr.)
65 King in a Steve Martin skit
66 Isle of ___ (part of Cambridgeshire, England)

Yesterday's Solution

B	U	T	T	E	D		I	O	N	S		S	O	S
A	G	O	U	T	I		S	C	A	T		A	C	E
T	H	O	R	N	S		S	E	T	A		B	E	T
			B	A	C	H	E	L	O	R	F	L	A	T
M	A	M	A			O	I	L			R	E	N	O
A	M	O	N	G	S	T		I	N	C	A			
G	P	O		E	P	E	E		A	R	N	I	C	A
M	U	S	I	C	A	L	D	I	R	E	C	T	O	R
A	L	E	C	K	S		O	N	C	E		A	D	O
			H	O	M	E		T	O	P	P	L	E	S
U	P	T	O			T	A	R			H	Y	D	E
S	H	A	R	P	S	H	O	O	T	E	R			
E	A	T		A	P	E	R		O	R	A	N	G	E
U	S	A		R	A	N	T		U	N	S	E	E	N
P	E	R		A	R	E	A		R	E	E	L	E	D

EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

Samurai Sudoku

DIFFICULT

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

4								5
	8		5		1		4	
		7				9		8
	7		8		5			2
				3				
5	3		2		7		9	
7		3						
	1		4					
6					3			9

6								9
	7		3		9		4	
9		8				5		
4			5		1		9	
				9				
	9		8		2		5	1
						7		6
					7		2	
3			2					4

			4	7		1		3
					2			
			5	1		9		7

	9	8						
			6					
	3	4						

5					9			7
	7		3				5	
4		8					6	
7	6		5		2		8	
				9				
	5		1		8			4
		5				7		3
	8		9		4		6	
3								8

9			2					7
	5	2					8	
	6	8					3	
	4		8		2		7	3
				9				
2			3		7		1	
1		6				5		
	3		9		6		8	
8								2

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Last Week's Solution

2	4	6	7	8	9	1	3	5
5	8	9	1	3	4	6	7	2
3	7	1	2	5	6	8	9	4
8	2	4	9	6	7	3	5	1
6	9	3	5	1	8	4	2	7
7	1	5	4	2	3	9	6	8
9	3	2	8	7	1	5	4	6
4	5	8	6	9	2	7	1	3
1	6	7	3	4	5	2	8	9

6	7	2	3	4	5	8	9	1
5	8	3	7	9	1	2	4	6
1	9	4	2	6	8	3	5	7
2	3	5	6	7	4	9	1	8
7	1	6	8	5	9	4	2	3
8	4	9	1	2	3	6	7	5
9	2	1	5	8	6	7	3	4
4	5	8	9	3	7	1	6	2
3	6	7	4	1	2	5	8	9

7	8	3	6	2	4	8	7	1
2	6	9	9	5	7	6	3	2
4	1	5	8	3	1	9	5	4
1	5	9	3	6	5	1	2	8
3	9	6	8	1	5	4	6	7
5	4	7	2	3	6	8	9	1
3	9	6	1	4	7	2	8	5
6	2	4	7	9	8	3	1	5
5	4	7	6	2	3	9	4	8

4	7	8	9	2	1	3	6	5
6	9	1	3	5	8	4	7	2
2	3	5	4	6	7	1	9	8
3	2	6	7	8	4	9	5	1
8	5	4	2	1	9	6	3	7
9	1	7	5	3	6	2	8	4
5	6	3	8	4	2	7	1	9
1	4	9	6	7	5	8	2	3
7	8	2	1	9	3	5	4	6

1	8	9	5	3	2	4	6	7
2	4	6	7	9	1	5	8	3
3	5	7	8	4	2	6	9	1
8	1	4	9	2	3	7	5	6
7	4	3	6	1	5	8	2	9
9	6	2	8	7	4	3	1	5
4	9	8	7	5	3	6	2	1
6	2	7	1	4	9	3	8	5

Today in History

1783 George Washington resigns as commander in chief of the Continental Army and retires to his home at Mount Vernon, Va.

1823 The poem "Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" is published anonymously in the Troy (N.Y.) Sentinel; the verse, popularly known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," was later attributed to Clement C. Moore.

2009 Richard and Mayumi Heene, the parents who'd pulled the "balloon boy" hoax, are sentenced to jail — 90 days for him, 20 days for her.

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people lookout

DEPTH PERCEPTION

For the Next Two Weeks, Please Call Him 'Cap'n V'

Prince Frederic Von Anhalt, who is married to Zsa Zsa Gabor, accidentally glued his eye shut earlier this week when he mistook nail glue for his customary eye drops. He has seen a doctor and will have to wear a patch over the eye for a few weeks. CNN reports that Gabor once hurt her eye in a similar fashion when she accidentally applied crazy glue to her eyelashes. Von Anhalt removed the glue from the bathroom after the incident to ensure it would not be repeated. **(EXPRESS)**

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Police, Surprisingly, Not Receptive to 'Want a Sip?'

Two men, Alexander Hernandez and Santos Padilla, broke into 50 Cent's Connecticut mansion Tuesday, according to E Online. Police, who were alerted by the house's security system to an unfamiliar car in the driveway, discovered Hernandez hiding in a closet, sipping from a stolen bottle of wine. Padilla was hiding elsewhere in the house, and both were carrying drugs, police said. The house itself used to belong to Mike Tyson, and has been on the market for three years. **(EXPRESS)**

ROBIN BECK/GETTY

Lindsay Lohan, once a promising young actress, now goes by the nickname "Raging Bull."

NOT THIS AGAIN

Conflicting Accounts

A female staffer at the Betty Ford Center wants to prosecute Lindsay Lohan for an alleged attack she says occurred while Lohan was in rehab. The staffer, Dawn Holland, claims that Lohan returned to her sober house intoxicated. She then allegedly assaulted Holland, who sustained a sprained arm. Lohan claims she's the one who was assaulted, and that Holland refused to give her a Breathalyzer test. Holland claims Lohan refused the breath test. **(EXPRESS)**

Friendship

What Mean Girls, Where?

Though Miley Cyrus has been catching heat for a video that depicts her taking a hit of salvia, her friend Kelly Osbourne has tweeted that, despite the perception that Cyrus is a bad influence: "Actually it's the other way around Miley has us all on a health kick. Gym/early nights." **(EXPRESS)**

INSECURITIES

Hey, Feminism Called, and It Wants Its Pink Shirt Back

Reese Witherspoon, appearing on Chelsea Handler's talk show, has admitted that she Googles herself, and hates looking at pictures that have been taken of her. "I literally think I look bad in every picture," she said, "I don't know, who feels good looking at themselves?" She also mentioned that she hates watching her own films. **(EXPRESS)**

"People have fewer scars from car accidents than I have on my body,"

—**HEIDI MONTAGE,** WHO SAYS SHE REGRETS HER MULTIPLE PLASTIC SURGERIES NOW THAT SHE'S HAD TIME TO REFLECT.

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